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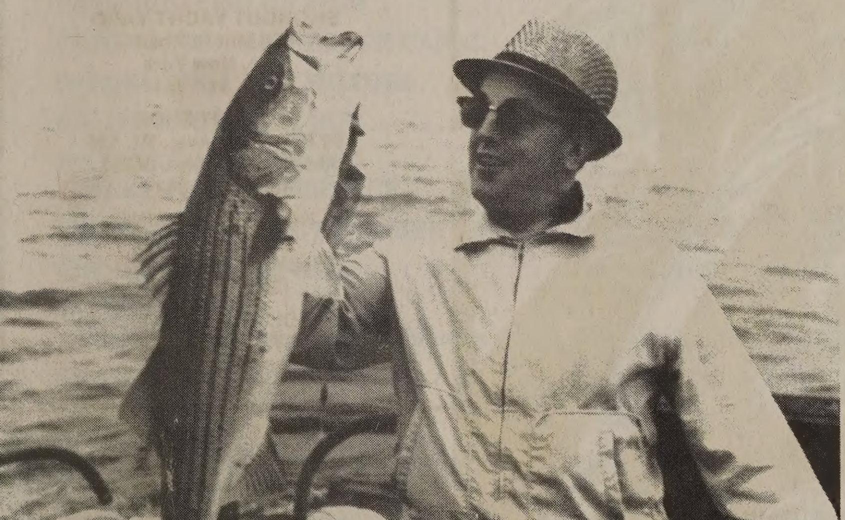

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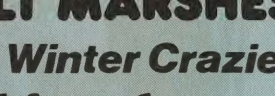

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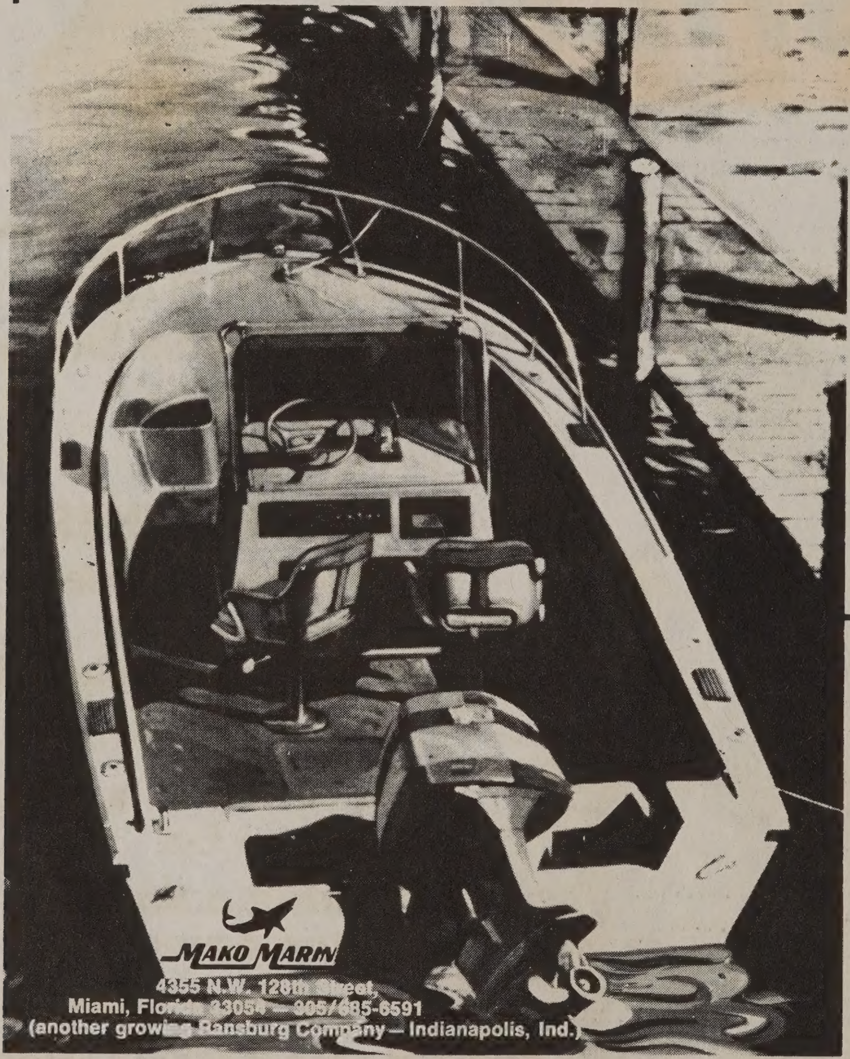

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The Long Island
FISHERMAN

THE ONLY WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

Vol. 9 No. 7 February 14, 1974

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VACATION TIME

The Long Island Fisherman will not be published for the next two weeks while the staff goes on vacation. Issue #8 will be published on March 7th.

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The LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN is published weekly, except for two (2) weeks in February, by the L.I.F. Publishing Corp., L.I.F. Building, 8 West 7th St., P.O. Box 143, Deer Park, N.Y. 11729. Telephone (516) 667-6633. Second class postage is paid at Deer Park. 25 cents a copy; 1 year, 50 issues, $9.00; 2 years, 100 issues, $17.00; 3 years, 150 issues, $25.00. Back issues are sold for 50 cents a copy. Photographs and written contributions are welcomed. Unsolicited contributions must be accompanied by a written request and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. All consideration will be given these requests, however, no responsibility on our part is assumed. Notice of change of address must include both the old and the new address. Allow two weeks for change.

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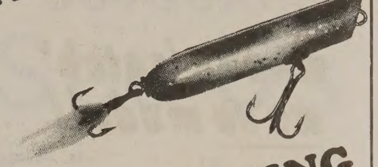

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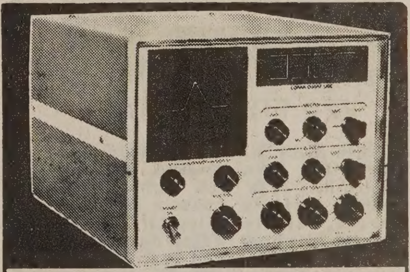

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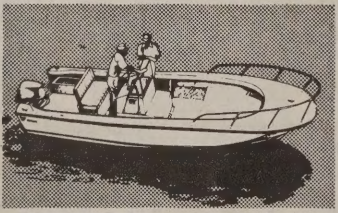

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Chum Lines

Due to the fact we have received multiple requests from readers for the same information, the first section of Chum Lines will be dedicated to answering these questions.

1) "What are you going to do about the bunker problem?"

The final solution to the "bunker problem" will only be forced through the vigorous action of individuals corresponding with their elected [and non-elected] government officials. This is what YOU MUST DO NOW!

Write to your local New York State Assemblyman and State Senator, advising both that you are aware of, and disturbed by, the activities of the commercial bunker fishermen, and urge them to support the "Pisani Mannix Mossbunker Bill." The number of the bill is S-7245.

Also write to: Commissioner James Biggane, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Albany; Assemblyman Clarence Lane, Chairman, Assembly Conservation Committee; Senator Bernard Smith, Chairman, Senate Conservation Committee.

These people represent you in state government. If you do not take the time and make the effort to advise these people of your feelings in this matter, and do so now, kiss the bunker [...and bass, and blues, etc....] goodbye. For the commercial bunker interests will completely destroy this important fishery beyond the point where it can make a comeback—Just as sure as the fact that fishermen like to catch fish!

2) "Where can I get a list of launching ramps on Long Island?"

Send one dollar, with your request, to: The Nassau County Fish & Game Association, P.O. Box 245, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11570.

3) "I'm going to (Florida, Caribbean, California, South Carolina, etc.). How should I go about making reservations for (guides, charter boats, beach buggies, etc.)? What can I expect to catch?"

First, decide where you're going and/or what you want to fish for. This will mean either a direct order from your wife or girl friend in the first case, and a bit of research in the second instance.

Spend an enjoyable few hours reading back issues of magazines such as SALT WATER SPORTSMAN or the "big three" to determine what is available, when and where. THE LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN also has run articles dealing with out-of-state areas, mostly in Florida.

After you decide "what, where and when," it's time to find out "how."

Local chambers of commerce might be of assistance, but they tend to view their respective areas through rose tinted glasses. You might try your local travel agent, although we personally know of none who cater to fishermen's interests in a completely knowledgeable manner.

In any event, you certainly will end up with a few contacts. Call or write to these people, stating your desires and asking them for their advice and recommendations. It is to their benefit, in the form of repeat business, to give you fairly accurate information. Since you will be going "first time," so to speak, that will be the best you're going to be able to do unless, of course, you know someone who has gone your route before, is reliable, and will help with adequate information. Then you'll have it about as "made" as can be.

GASOLINE AND THE SPECIAL INTEREST

The article in last week's (1/24/74) LIF by Mr. Al Ristori made an interesting point: marine use of gasoline for pleasure purposes amounts to only a small percentage of the total used by the entire country, and eliminating this tiny fraction wouldn't significantly help the overall situation. Mr. Ristori correctly points out that this approach would have a severe, and indeed, intolerable effect on Long Island's economy.

As I am a pleasure boat operator, I don't particularly want to lose the use of my boat due to lack of gas. However, I feel it is important to call your attention to similar comments regarding the energy crunch made by other special interest groups—Such as the private airplane pilot, the snowmobile user, the

(Continued on page 21.)

News Releases

THE SOUTHERN NEW YORK FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION,INC.

Rod Vandivert, Executive Director of the Striped Bass Fund, will speak about the activities of his organization, detail the problems facing the striped bass population along the East Coast, discuss what has and will be done to further the well-being of that fishery, and discuss the future of the striped bass along the East Coast, and particularly Long Island Sound and the Hudson River.

A question and answer period will follow.

In addition, the highly acclaimed Trout Unlimited film, "The Way Of A Trout," will be shown after the question and answer period.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn about one of the major sport fishing problems that we face in this area as well as to view a thoroughly enjoyable and informative film that follows the life of a trout.

WHERE: Westchester County Center Building, White Plains, N.Y. (at the junction of Rt. 100 and the Bronx River Parkway).

WHEN: WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 20, 8:00 P.M.

For further information, contact: Kenneth Schultz (212)000 0000

YOUR FUTURE IN THE SEA

The sixth symposium on "Your Future in the Sea" will be held at Hunter College, Park Ave. at 69th St., New York City, Saturday, March 2, 1974. The program for this March is fresh and full of interest and we hope that many of you will take the opportunity to attend.

Afternoon panels run from 12:30 p.m. until 5:15, two each hour in different auditoriums so you can choose your subject each hour. Afternoon topics are:

Scientific sport fishing, Farming the sea, Coastal marine ecology, Underwater photography, Fishing behavior, Fish watching, and others.

Then after a break, the evening program runs from 8-11 p.m., concentrating on films, and including:

Dr. Harold Edgerton, pioneer in the development of underwater photo graphy, with film "The Search for the Monitor of Cape Hatteras," plus an off-beat, variable-speed film of underwater life.

Dr. Eugenie Clark, faculty member of the University of Maryland, with new films on the "sleeping" sharks of the Yucatan.

Dr. John Storr, expert on sponges of the Bahamas, with a film on miniature life of coral reefs, and a chalk talk on marine life.

Plus, the James Dugan Memorial Award for service to marine science; the Littoral Society fish tagging awards, and more.

It will be an eventful, enlightening day. Remember, all ticket contributions are tax deductible.

For further information, contact: American Littoral Society, Highlands, New Jersey 07732.

SPORTSMEN GROUPS SEEK PUBLIC SUPPORT OF A BILL TO BAN COMMERCIAL FISHING IN OUR NATIONAL SEASHORE PARKS

Atlantic City, New Jersey—Several of the nation's most active sportsmen's groups have joined together in an effort to seek public support for a new federal bill aimed at banning all commercial fishing in the national seashore areas.

Bill HR11896, which would prohibit commercial fishing in the waters located in the national seashore recreation areas, was introduced by Congressman Edwin B. Forsythe of Moorestown, New Jersey. Congressman Forsythe is a long-time dedicated conservationist. The bill is now in a committee headed by Congressman James A. Haley, Sarasota, Florida.

THE BILL STATES: Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that notwithstanding any other law or provision of law, except as specifically provided in this Act, any person who engages in fishing, other than sport fishing, in any water located within the boundaries of any area administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a national seashore or as a national seashore recreation area, shall be fined not more than $5,000 for each day on which he engages in such fishing.

Sec. 2. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as being in derogation of any rights of any person to fish in any

(Continued on page 8.)

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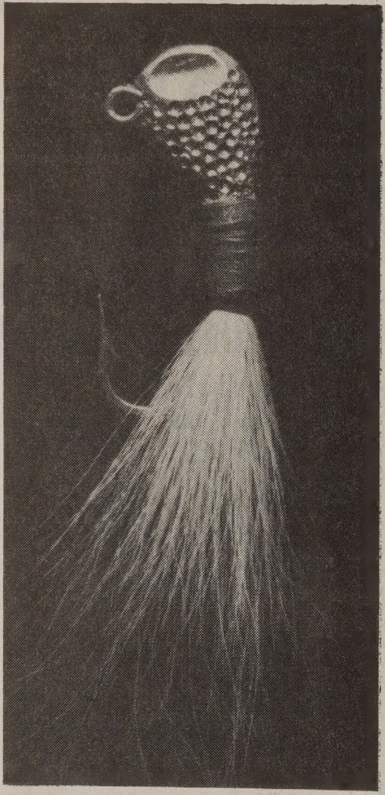

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CLUB NEWS

CONNECTICUT RIVER STRIPED BASS CLUB FISHING CLINIC

On March 1, 1974, at 7 p.m. the CRSBC will present a fishing clinic and open house at the Inn At Cornfield Point in Old Saybrook.

Included in the session will be movies, how-to's, guest speakers, door prizes, demonstrations, etc. All are invited to attend this free program. For further information, contact: Connecticut River Striped Bass Club, Old Saybrook, Conn. 06475.

CONNECTICUT VALLEY ANGLERS

The Anglers began in 1974 with 100 strong, dedicated members. Their first function is an ice-fishing contest which lasts from January 1—February 28.

Officers elected for 1974 are: President—Burt Hirsch; Vice-President—George Hager; Secretary-Treasurer—Jack Meehl.

The club was formed in 1970, and has had many worthwhile conservation projects, including assisting Bob Pond of Stripers Unlimited, in the first stocking ever of striped bass in the Connecticut River in 1973. Salt Water Editor of Outdoor Life, George Heinold, is an active, honorary member.

NORTH BROOKHAVEN SPORT FISHERMEN'S CLUB

The N.B.S.F.C. wishes to advise other clubs that they are eager to participate in inter-club tournaments of any kind. For further information, contact Bob Rosenberger, Corres. Sec'y., N.B.S.F.C. P.O.Box 514, Rocky Point, N.Y. 11778.

SQUADRON ANGLERS

The 1974 slate of officers for the Squadron Anglers, installed at the January 17 meeting, was as follows:

President: Steve Skurka
Vice-President: Hugh Diamond
Vice-President—Tournaments:
Dave Zeidenberg
Treasurer: Wayne Hutnick
Secretary: Ed Stein

Their annual Dinner-Dance will be highlighted by the presentation of awards. The date is March 23, 1974, 8 p.m., at Teresa's of Massapequa. For reservations contact John C. Baker, Sr. (799-1451) or John C. Baker, Jr. (226-1298.)

"SALTY" FLYRODDERS OF NEW YORK INC.

DON VETTER will be the featured speaker at the March 4th meeting of the "SALTY" Flyrodders of New York, Inc.

The talk will deal largely with freshwater technique as applied to saltwater fishing. Don Vetter is one of the most knowledgeable and informative writers, who will provide a very interesting evening for anybody willing to try "saltwater" as a change of pace.

The public is invited free at this meeting, which will be held in the lower hall of the Grace Lutheran Church, 31-20 21st. Avenue, Astoria, L.I., at 8 P.M. (212) YE 2-1986. Coffee and cake will be served.

MASSACHUSETTS STRIPED BASS ASSOCIATION

Winner of the 1973 $500 Striper Derby sponsored by the Massachusetts Striped Bass Association is Gerald Giagrando of 8 B Street, Hull, Massachusetts. Gerry will receive a $500 U.S. Savings Bond. His fish weighed 57 lbs., 14 oz. and was caught October 7, 1973 in Cohasset waters. This is the second time in three years that Gerry has taken first prize in the annual Derby, which is open to anyone who fishes New England waters.

In addition to the first prize, about 30 valuable merchandise prizes will be awarded to contestants who entered fish in the 40 and 50 pound categories.

The 1974 $600 Derby will get underway March 1st and run through November 30th. This year, in addition to the $500 Bond for the heaviest striped bass, a $100 Bond will be awarded for the heaviest bluefish entered. Entry fee is only $1.00. To obtain entry forms and rules write: M.S.B.A., $600 Derby Chairman, Box 11, Quincy, Massachusetts 02169.

WONDER ANGLERS FISHING CLUB

At a recent meeting the following members were elected officers of the Wonder Anglers Fishing Club, Greenpoint, Brooklyn, for 1974:

President: George Foley
Vice-President: Ray Maly
Treasurer: Bill Radeska
Corresponding Sec'y.: Bob Jacik

Installation of officers will take place Saturday night, February 16, at the Club's Annual Dinner Dance at the Polonaise Terrace in Greenpoint. At that time the Wonder Anglers will also welcome their newest member, Richie Tift, and award trophies for the 1973 fishing season. Winners are:

Snowshoe Flounder—George Foley
Fluke—Eddie Kulikowski
Blackfish—Barney Hnat
Weakfish—Henry Muller
Bluefish—Ray Maly

A special commendation will also go to Henry Muller who once again sold the most books for the Club's Annual Thanksgiving Turkey Basket Raffle.

Meetings are held the second Sunday of each month at the Club headquarters at 193 Meserole Ave., Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

SOUTH SHORE SOCIAL FISHING CLUB

The S.S.S.F.C. held its installation dinner Saturday, January 19, at the Sunrise Village in Bellmore. Officers for the new year are Bill Luther, President; Kenny Brychcy, Vice-President; Al Luther, Treasurer; Paul Brychcy, Secretary.

MANHASSET BAY SPORTSMEN'S CLUB ANNOUNCES BUNKER HEARING

The Town of North Hempstead has passed legislation to limit the activities of the BUNKER BOATS in waters under its jurisdiction to TWO miles from the shoreline. The "waters" are Manhasset Bay and the west shore of Hempstead Harbor. Glen Cove already has legislation covering the east shore.

A public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 10:30 A.M. This is a difficult time of day for many, BUT, the bunker boats will be well represented. We urge interested parties to make every effort to attend. It is critical that we fill the hearing room with interested residents.

Please don't be lulled into a sense of complacency by the proposed New York State legislation that may never get out of committee. The local law will be effective THIS fishing season.

The hearing will be at TOWN HALL on Plandome Rd. in Manhasset. Come to air your views where it counts, or just come to observe and be counted. Let's back up Councilman Jerry Weinstein and Town Attorney Dick Ostendorf and save this coming fishing season.

MOBILE SPORTSFISHERMEN OF CONNECTICUT

On March 30, 1974 the Mobile Sportfishermen of Connecticut will hold its second annual Fishermen's Spring Rally at the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. (At the Rt. 99 exit off I-91) The program will begin at 7 P.M. and will be open to the public free of charge.

Included in the program will be several fishing films, as well as a number of displays, guest speakers, and demonstrations—all dealing with salt water fishing in this area. Door prizes

(Continued on page 27)

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(Continued from page 5.)

waters pursuant to any valid treaty or other international agreement entered into by the United States prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

In urging your support, the sportsmen state:

"Bill HR11896 applies to all National Seashore Areas. However, a case in point for the bill's passage can be cited in regard to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Area where great migrations of striped bass, bluefish and seatrout are harvested by commercial seines actually operated from the beaches...an action which is prohibited by most coastal states from Maine to Seattle, Washington.

The basically inshore-living striped bass is particularly vulnerable to this type of seining. The striper has been declared a game fish in most states and is protected in much of his migratory habitat, yet when he migrates to the beaches of Hatteras, he enters an area of no conservation regulation whatsoever.

It seems inconceivable that tourists and sport fishermen who helped to pay the cost of maintaining these areas, which are designed and set aside as recreation areas for all the people, may at times find themselves involved, harrassed and pushed aside by commercial fishing opportunists who themselves are under no intelligent code of conduct or restrictive conservation regulation.

The ravages of uncontrollable commercial netting, pollution and apathy are constantly at work against our shorelines. Destruction of our inshore and estuary fishes can be the only result. The enactment of Bill HR11896 would be an excellent step towards turning the tide."

Concerned citizens can help by writing to: Congressman James A. Haley, Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 and asking for immediate action on Bill HR11896.

For further information contact: Mr. Earl H. Harder, 600 Manor Road, Cinnaminson, N.J. 08077. (609) 829-0267 or 3244.

SECOND ANNUAL FISH-IN AT NEW JERSEY BOAT SHOW

The Striped Bass Fund in conjunction with the 21st Jersey Coast Boat Show will hold a major informational meeting, from 1 P.M. to 7 P.M., Saturday, February 23, 1974, in the Convention Hall at Asbury Park, New Jersey. Expert fishermen, scientists, and other lecturers will be present.

The program will present present conditions of the East Coast fishing, discussions on water purity, the sludge problem, commercial netting threats to striped bass, the off shore and other proposed nuclear developments, and "how to" tips and hints by New Jersey fishing experts. Whether you are a surf caster or an off shore boatman there will be an expert talking directly to you.

And if your interest goes to the future of striped bass, protection of the spawning grounds, or the recreational quality of the coastal waters, a part of the program will be designed to inform you and tell you what actions you can take.

For further information contact: Rod Vandivert, (516) 587-3811.

UNDERSEA SYMPOSIUM

On Saturday, February 23, 1974, an underwater symposium and film festival entitled "Planet Ocean" will be held at Ward Melville H.S. in East Setauket (north of Smithtown By-Pass — Rte. 347 — on Old Town Road.) The theme of the symposium will be the conservation of the ocean, its natural resources, and the surrounding wetlands.

Sponsors are Stony Brook University (SUNY) and The National Association of Skin Diving Schools. The purpose of the symposium is to raise funds for the Geology Museum at the university and for the development of the sport of safe scuba diving.

Sessions will be held from 9 am to 5 pm, and from 7:30 pm to 11 pm. Tickets are $5 per person for the entire program. The symposium sponsors will provide a list of restaurants and diners in the area.

For further information, call: (516) 757-2252.

MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD IN ALBANY

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(Continued on page 29.)

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30,000	355.00	431.00
32,000	364.00	441.00
34,000	373.00	453.00
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Making a Salt Water Aquarium

by John Fennimore

Starting a salt water aquarium? It is the most difficult type of aquarium to start, but the easiest to maintain once it gets going. A salt water tank should be at least 20 gallons, with no metal parts on it that may corrode: I would advise you to buy the tank. First of all, the tank must be built to certain specifications. Another reason is that you may be able to buy a new tank for the price of the glass. I have seen 29 gallon tanks selling as cheaply as $6.

The next thing that you shall need is an under-gravel filter. This is usually a corrugated piece of plastic that fits on the bottom of the tank. You must get one that is made specifically for your tank size; one that is too large or too small will not work properly.

Some under gravel filters come with small blocks of wood used as airstones (square stone attached to an air hose to make bubbles.) Don't connect these wood blocks. The pump works better without them! They get "cruddy" and make the pump work harder.

Next you will need a high volume air pump. The pump must also be very quiet. During daytime hours a noisy pump will not bother you, but when it gets dark and things quiet down you'll think that you're in a '57 Owens with the motor cover off. You will also need about 40 pounds of gravel (dolomite) to cover the under-gravel biological filter. Finally, a flourescent full hood will complete your tank set up. But before you purchase any equipment, make a deal with your aquarium dealer. Tell him that you won't buy anything unless he will give you a bacteria culture, when you need it! This will cost him nothing, but to you it is extremely valuable.

After you have obtained all the basic items, you are going to need water. Are you going to buy salt and make your own? No! never! Go down to the bay or ocean, and get your own. If you live near a pier, get a plastic garbage pail and line it with two plastic garbage bags, one inside the other. Take a bucket with a rope attached, and lower it from the dock. Fill the big garbage pail inside of the car (if you don't feel like doing this, fill numerous small waste basket plastic bags.

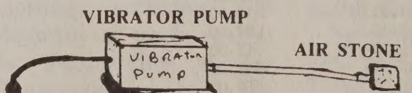
When you bring the water back add a drop or so of copper solution to every gallon of water. This chemical comes in a small squeeze bottle and is manufactured by Alpine Marine. It is a solution of 1.25% copper and 17% formaldehyde, but don't be fooled by its small size, because it can treat 600 gallons of water. Another type of copper solution called Marine Kure doesn't have formaldehyde in it. This makes it easier on the fish for treating parasites. I'll discuss this later.

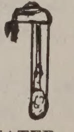
Fill the tank with the treated sea water and let it stand for 48 hours. After that time, all the bacteria will be dead. Then go visit the aquarium dealer you made a deal with, and ask him for the bacteria culture. It will be found in the floss in his outside filter. These bacteria do not cause fish diseases, and are necessary for the proper balance in your aquarium.

This filter is not needed in a small tank of 20 or 29 gallons, but does help to keep the water clearer in larger tanks. If you do decide to go for a 50 gallon or greater tank, a filter will be desirable. I have noticed that those who do use one remove or raise the screening bell on the suction tube. This removes suspended particles, but is too far from the bottom to remove all the bacteria.

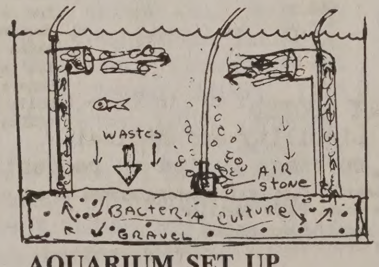
Make sure that your dealer gives you the floss in a plastic bag with salt water and air in it. Bring the bag home and set it, closed, in the tank for about 15 minutes or so till the temperatures inside and outside the bag equalize. Then take the floss out of the bag, and squeeze it into the tank. Remove all pieces of floss when you are finished, as some are liable to break off. It will take about a day or so for the bacteria to settle.

After a day has passed, you must get some trial fish: obtain a few killies and shiners and bring them home in a plastic bag. Fill a bucket full of leftover treated water and place the bag of fish into it. Wait till the temperatures balance, and take the fish out of the bag

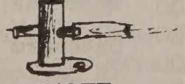




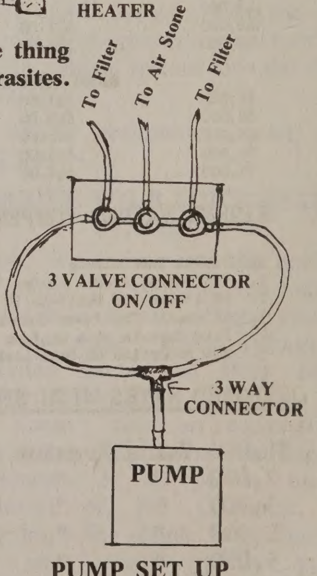
Inexpensive vibrator pump, nice thing to have when treating fish for parasites.



AQUARIUM SET UP



ON/OFF VALVE



PUMP SET UP

with a net, carefully placing them in the bucket. Add a few drops of Marine Kure to the bucket. An 8-10 hr. wait in the copper treated water will remove any parasites from the fish. But make sure that not even a drop of newly treated water enters the tank, or it will kill the desirable bacteria.

There is method to this madness. Killies are a hardy little fish. They live in shallow water that is cold at night and warm during the day. Shiners are extremely delicate, and will die if you look at them the wrong way. These two types of fish will act as guinea pigs for the trial period, which will last from 2-3 weeks. If the shiners die, well—they're hard to keep anyway. If the killies die, then you've goofed. Cry and start over. But if both survive you're out of the woods and ready for bigger and better things.

Before I go further, let's talk about the operating principles and procedures of the aquarium and what the bacteria are for. Over the undergravel filter should be about 4 inches of gravel, or, by rule of thumb, about two pounds per gallon. In this gravel are found bacteria. The filter creates a suction which runs through the gravel. The fishes' wastes are sucked into the gravel where the bacteria break them down. The filter also creates movement of water which helps to remove carbon dixoide.

Fish need vitamins and minerals. Many of these necessary elements are not found in the food that they eat, but come from the water in which they live. Because of this the fish may use up certain of these elements. Therefore, you must change about three gallons of water per month, depending on the size of the tank and the amount of fish in the tank. This is done by taking a three-gallon bucket of sea water, treating it with Protocure (by Alpine Marine) and wait for 2 days before putting it in the tank.

When changing the water take out three gallons and add the fresh three gallons. But don't throw the old water away just yet! Save it till you finish adding the new water, just in case you spill some, or you may take out more than you have to put in.

It's always a good idea to have a lot of "spare" water. Get some sea water in the manner described above, and line an old fish tank or small plastic garbage pail with a plastic garbage bag. Fill the bag with water, add copper and stir, then tie up the open end of the bag and shield it from light. In this way all bacteria in the water are dead, and no new bacteria can grow.

The last two items you should have are an air stone and a heater. The air stone can be added by using a triple valve connector. From this connect two hoses to the under-gravel filter and one to the air stone. The air stone will assure that there will be plenty of oxygen for the fish. The heater has a thermostat in it that, when set properly, will keep the temperature constant.

A word to the wise. Choose a place for your tank that is strong, and fits your household situation. You'll never want to move your tank when it gets going.

Note: The method described above is not satisfactory for marine invertebrates due to the high copper content of the water. Also, each aquarium dealer you go to will stress different items or follow different methods. Different methods attain different results. Listen to the aquarium dealer. Go home and think about what he says. If something didn't make sense, check it out. Many times I find that people who are supposed to know, don't! At this time it may seem extremely hard to start a salt water aquarium, and it is, but the overall pleasure you will receive from these beautiful creatures is well worth it.

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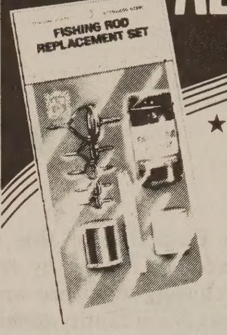

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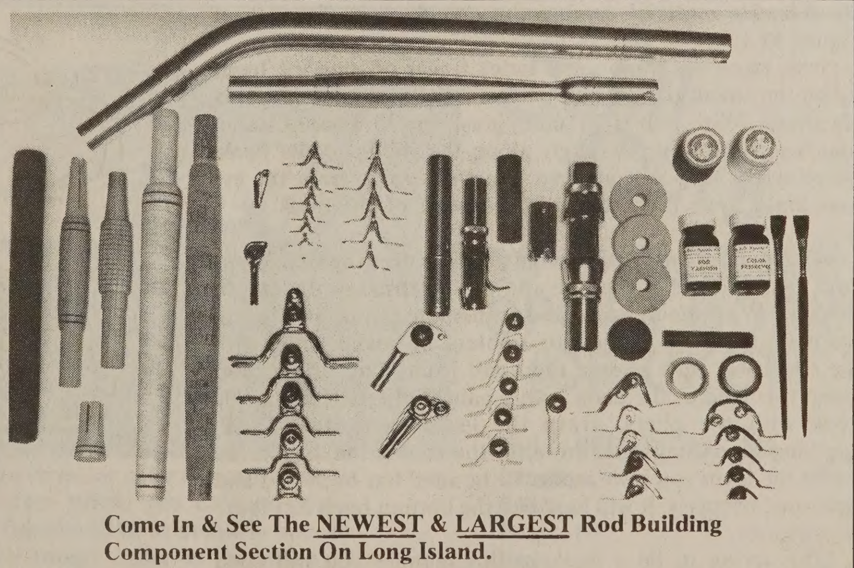

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Tying Your Own Basic Bottom Rigs

by Scott Simons

Part III: How to Snell Hooks

As discussed in Part One of this series, you can save considerable amounts of money by tying your own hooks rather than by purchasing them pre-snelled. All you need to snell your own hooks is a quantity of leader material and the hooks themselves. Hooks can be purchased in boxes of 100 at great savings at the larger bait and tackle shops. Don't scrimp here—buy only the best "name" brand hooks.

We'll learn to snell a hook two ways—the best way and a simpler way. First, the best way. Take a hook in your left hand and hold it point down with the eye facing to the right, grasping the bend of the hook between thumb and index finger. Pass the end of the leader material through the eye of the hook twice, so that you end up with a 1" loop with about 3" of leader material coming through the eye. (See top of Figure #1.)

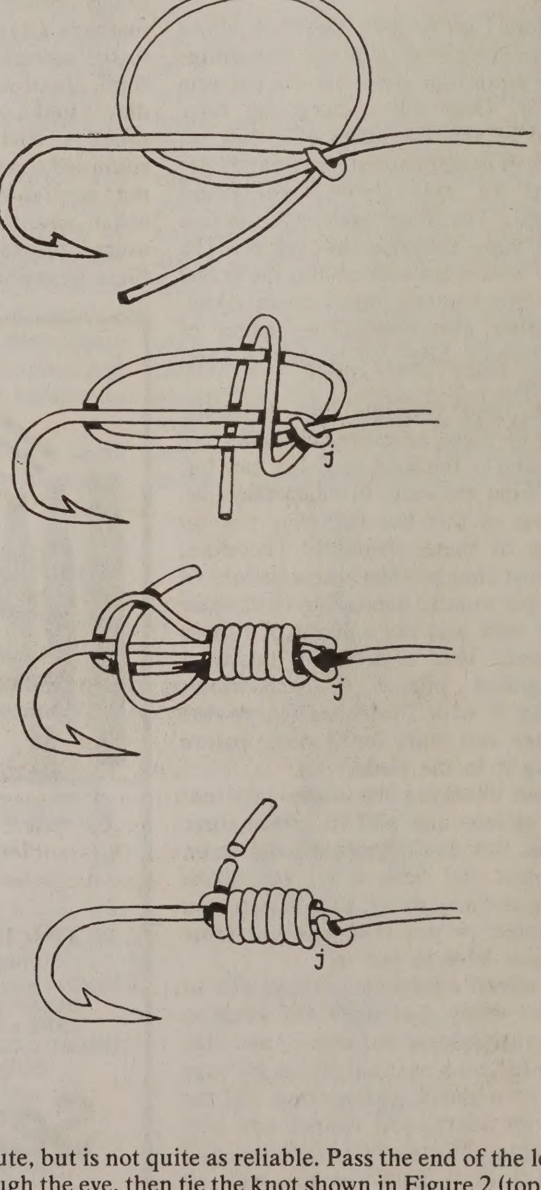
Next, move the thumb and index finger of your left hand up on the shank of the hook and hold the loop flat alongside the shank. With your right hand, grasp the 3" piece of leader and begin wrapping it snugly along the shank of the hook, covering the loop as you wrap. Start wrapping from the eye and make your turns towards the bend of the hook.

After you have made six complete turns over the shank and loop, take the end of the line and pass it through the end of the loop. While holding the line against the shank, slowly pull the main leader until the loop tightens up and is snug with the end turn. Now release the hook from your fingers and grasp the bend of the hook with a pair of pliers. Holding the hook with the pliers, grasp the leader and slowly pull, applying increasing pressure until the end of the loop tucks under the turns you have made. If the snell has been tied and tightened properly, it will look like the bottom hook in Figure #1.

After trying to tie a hook in this manner you will soon realize the secret to snelling hooks—you need *three* hands. Unfortunately, you only have two so you must obtain a third hand by mechanical means. You may either use a pliers, as above, or hold the hook in a vise, or hook the hook around a nail driven into a board.

In any case, there is one "third hand" you can't use—your mouth. There is a great temptation to hold one of the ends of the line between your teeth as you tighten the knot. *Never* use your mouth when tightening a knot, for the obvious reason ... one slip and you'll end up being the hook-ee instead of the hook-er.

FIGURE #1.



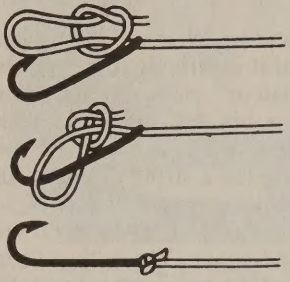
The second method for snelling hooks is much simpler to execute, but is not quite as reliable. Pass the end of the leader through the eye, then tie the knot shown in Figure 2 (top), but don't pull it tight. Simply pass the point of the hook through the loop in the knot. Pull the hook through the knot and grasp the hook with a pair of pliers. Holding the end of the leader, slowly pull until the knot tightens up against the shank. Clip off the excess line but leave an end about one-eight inch long.

The other end of your snelled hook must have a means of attaching it to the other terminal rigging. You can either attach a small barrel swivel, or tie an end loop for this purpose. To attch a barrel swivel simply tie a clinch knot as shown in Figure 3. An end loop is very simple to tie, as shown in Figure 4.

The length of leaders (snells) on hooks vary greatly for a number of reasons. Generally, a short, heavy snell is used for fish such as the flounder and kingfish, that hug the bottom while feeding. This length insures the bait will always be where the fish can find it. Longer leaders are usually used for fish such as the striped bass and weakfish, that feed above the bottom. A long leader allows the bait to move naturally with the current some distance over the bottom.

For every fishing rig, knots are essential in assembling the terminal tackle. It is important to remember that *all* knots weaken the line ... the average fisherman usually "can-knot" make a knot stronger than the line it is tied with, so the line will break at the knot. It therefore becomes very important to tie the strongest knots possible so that the line will not slip or weaken more than necessary. When tying knots, always pull them tight slowly and steadily—never with a jerk. A tip to remember when using monofilament: before you slowly tighten the line, lubricate the untightened knot with saliva—it will snug-up more securely. And—don't cut the excess off too close to the knot; the knot will slip loose. Always leave approximately one eight-inch beyond the knot.

FIGURE 2.



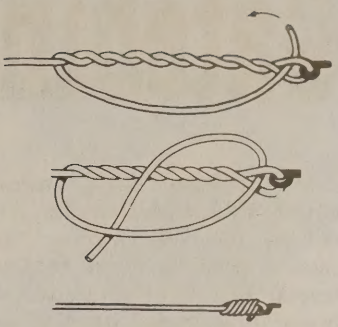
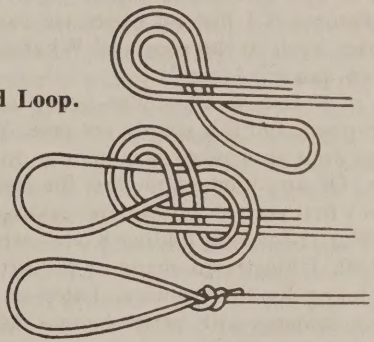
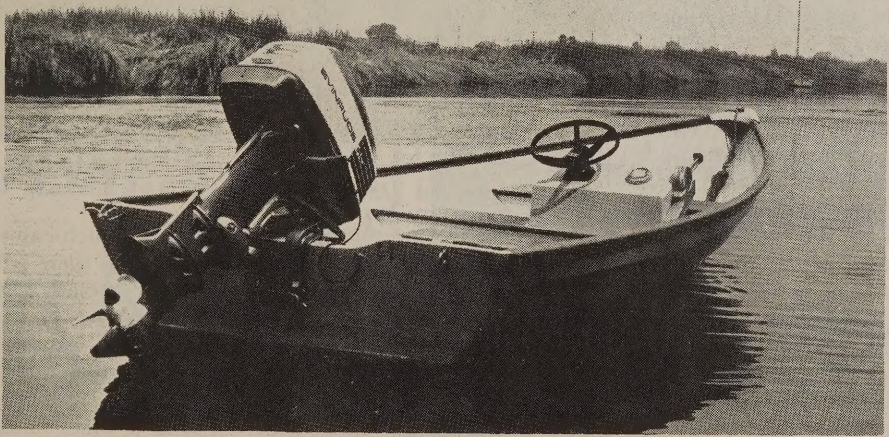


FIGURE 3: Clinch Knot.

FIGURE 4: End Loop.





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Catching Fish on Film

by Vlad Evanoff

Most fishermen own a camera and try to record all or parts of their fishing trips on film. Almost invariably these photos fall into the same category; "amateur" class. They usually show a grinning angler holding a big fish, or posed with several fish, and looking straight into the lens. There may be two or three anglers standing alongside a string of dead fish hung on a wall, fence, pole or other support.

If you look through the albums of these anglers you'll see the same shots repeated again and again. Yet, with a little extra thought, imagination and effort, any angler can take much better fishing photos.

Right away I can hear someone say, "Sure, I could take better pictures if I had an expensive camera, with all the accessories, such as the pros use! What do you expect from the cheap camera I use?"

This, of course, is a popular belief with many amateur photographers, but it is simply not true. You don't need the best— or even an expensive camera — to take good fishing pictures. Or any kind of photos, for that matter.

When I first started writing and taking photos right after World War II I used a folding Kodak which originally cost me $14.00: I illustrated many of the articles I wrote with photos taken by this camera. Later on I acquired more expensive cameras with better lenses, faster shutter speeds and more accessories.

The situation is even better today due to the availability of fine imported foreign cameras with superb lenses, fast shutter speeds and automation, all of which make picture taking much easier and (sometimes) better. Such cameras can be obtained at prices ranging from $50. to $150., and you can get excellent black and white prints, color prints or slides with them.

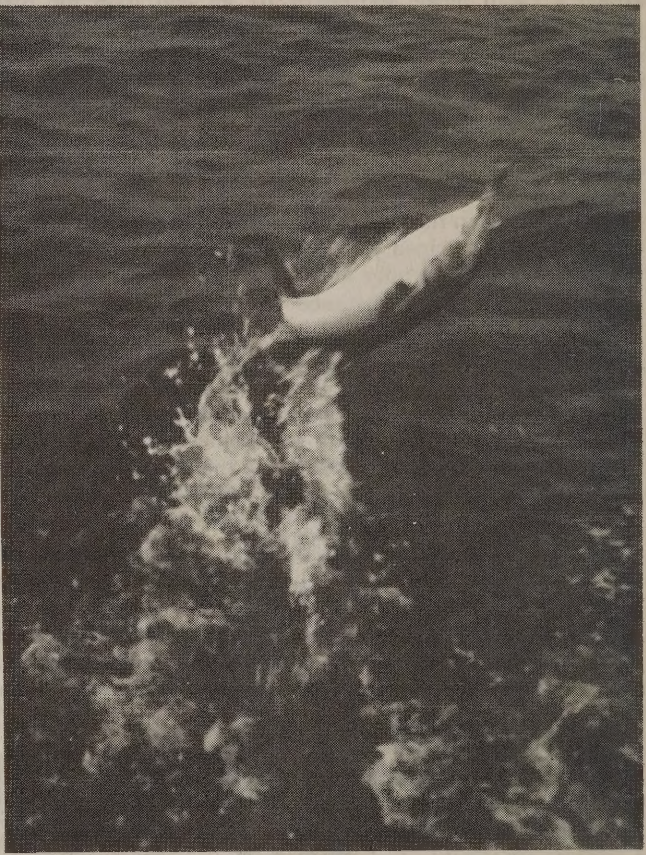
The type of camera you use isn't too important although most pros have a decided preference for certain types of camera, depending on the kinds of photos they usually make and what they use the camera for most of the time.

I personally prefer a range-finder, 35 mm. camera; this will take twenty or thirty six exposures in color or black and white. Many of the recent models are small, compact and light; you can tuck them away in small spaces or wear them on straps around your neck, and have them ready to take action shots at a moment's notice.

If you obtain such a miniature camera, with at least an f/3.5 or f/2.8 lens and a shutter speed of at least 1/300 or 1/500 seconds, you'll be able to take photos under most conditions. If you are able to afford the more expensive cameras with interchangeable lenses, you can use them with the "normal" 50mm lens — which is on the camera — and buy two more lenses, such as a wide-angle and a telephoto lens, to handle most situations.

If you can afford only one camera, I would recommend that you buy a miniature camera with a fixed semi-wide angle lens, such as a 40mm lens. This will always remain on the camera and cannot be changed.

You'll find such a lens ideal if you do a lot of fishing from a boat. Under this condition you are usually close to your subject and cannot back up to take in more area. A semi-wide angle lens will enable you to take in more area than would be allowed by a "normal" lens, so you won't miss or cut off some important part of the picture. Such cameras also have a greater depth of field, which means there is less need for critical focusing; you'll find this especially useful when taking action shots where the subject moves closer or farther away without any warning.



This shot of a bluefish leaping was obtained with a shutter speed of 1/500.

No matter what kind of camera you use, make sure you have a lens shade. The strong sun, glare and reflections usually found around water, beaches, sand or other outdoor lighting situations makes a lens shade a must for good pictures. If you plan to shoot black and white pictures, you should also get a medium-yellow filter, which will darken the sky and bring out the clouds and also darken the water.

You'll need a protective cover for your camera. A leather case is best when carrying the camera ready for shooting. A waterproof plastic bag or gadget bag can hold the camera when it is not being used.

One of the secrets in taking good photos is to use plenty of film and take plenty of shots during the fishing trip. It's surprising how many anglers take a camera on a long fishing trip and then take only two or three photos; these are usually taken at the end of the fishing trip, AFTER the fish have been caught.

To obtain an interesting variety of fishing photos you should take pictures throughout the fishing trip, from the beginning to the end. First, you can take a shot or two of the locale being fished. An overall scenic shot of the boat, jetty, pier, shore or beach can be made. It may be a good idea to include at least one person in the scene, for either getting ready for fishing, or actually fishing. Show them casting, trolling or bottom fishing. You can also take close-ups of the fishing tackle and even the lures or baits being used.

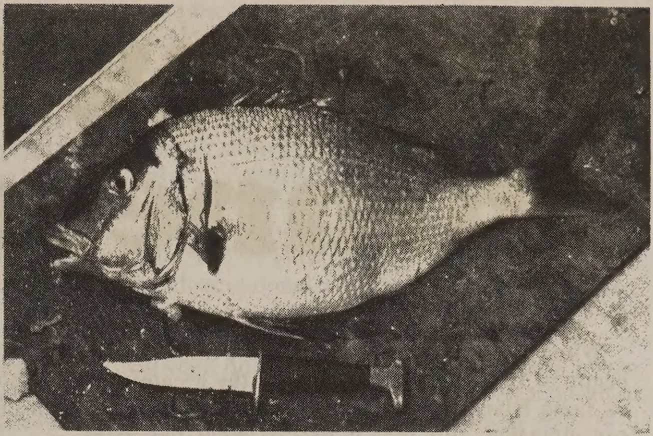
You can get lots of action shots when a fish is hooked. Try to show the bend in the fishing rod or a close-up of the angler's face while he's fighting the fish; these are always interesting. If a leaping fish is hooked, try to catch it when it is out of the water. Here, a shutter speed of at least 1/500 or even 1/000 is usually needed: it won't freeze the action entirely, but will make the fish look alive and moving by stopping most of the action. When taking pictures of fish leaping at a distance you'll need a telephoto lens.

I find that for most fishing shots a shutter speed of 1/100 will take sharp pictures. I rarely use a slower shutter speed because there is always unexpected movement which will blur the result; a faster shutter speed is better when a boat of angler is moving, or while the motor is running.

When the fish is beaten you can show it being netted, gaffed or lifted into the boat. When you have it on shore or in a boat, you may take some shots of the lucky angler holding the fish, but make him look at the fish and not directly at the camera. You can also make some close-ups of the fish hanging or lying on the deck, or on a rock or the ground.

The important thing to remember is that a live fish looks much better than a dead one; this is especially true when taking color shots. Most fish fade or become dull and colorless when they die.

When taking close-ups of a fish it's a good idea to place some object near it for comparison. You could use a fishing knife, rod and reel, gaff, net or lure: this will give the viewer a better indication of the actual size of the fish.



When taking close-ups of fish place some object near by which will give an idea of how big it is. This knife shows that the porgy is a good sized one.

If you must take photos of dead fish, or those which were caught earlier, you can improve their appearance by first soaking them in water or wiping them with a wet rag. Instead of waiting until you get home to take pictures, shoot the fish at the scene where they were caught. You can then get interesting backgrounds showing the water, sky and clouds, jetty, beach, shoreline or boat, which looks much better and more natural than your kitchen.

So, with a little thought, planning and effort you'll not only catch fish on rod and reel but also on film. Such shots can and should be varied, attractive and interesting, instead of being a monotonous series of fishing pictures which all look about the same.

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Fishing the Shinnecock Canal

by Matt Ahern

When the work of dredging out the Shinnecock Canal was begun in 1883, the fact that one of the greatest fishing spots on Long Island would result was probably never taken into consideration. But that is exactly what happened.

Today, as every Long Island fisherman knows, there are very few places available where the shore-bound angler can practically guarantee himself a mess of fish. You most certainly can in Shinnecock Canal! From flounders, to fluke, to weakfish, bluefish and stripers; they all can be caught here. Many times fish such as flounders and weakfish are taken in such large numbers, it is wonderful to behold: catches of fifty and sixty weakfish or flounders per fisherman is a common occurrence in spring.

Work was completed on the canal in 1892, and its primary purpose was, and still is, to maintain a high water level in Shinnecock Bay. Before the canal, boats wanting to get to Peconic Bay had to sail around Montauk Point. This was an unnessary hardship, as the distance separating the bays is but a mile. Difficulties and much expense was encountered before the work was completed and, in a way, the work still continues. Recently, about 800 feet of new concrete replacement bulkhead was installed, and another section close-by will be replaced shortly.

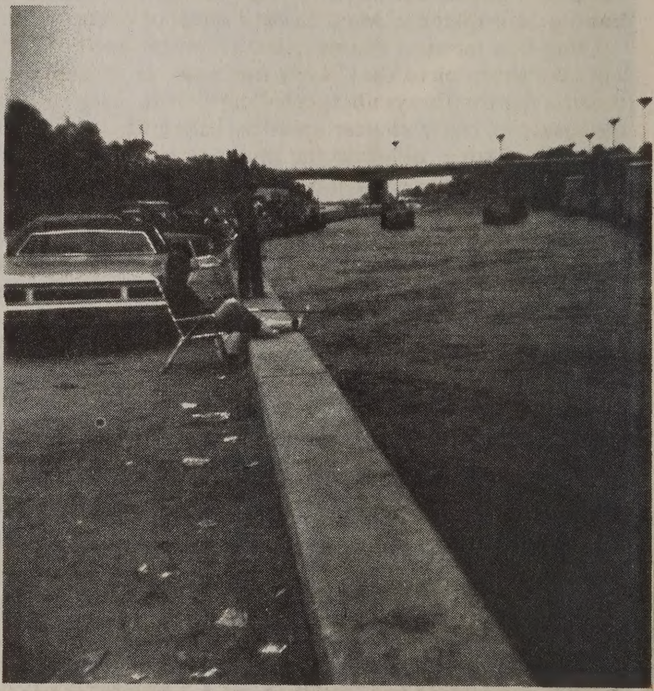
In order to fish the canal properly, you should understand its operation. When the incoming tide from Shinnecock Bay, on its way through the canal to Peconic Bay, attains the necessary force needed, it closes a set of tidal gates automatically, thereby sealing off the flow of water. From then on, the rising tide gradually builds the depth of water in the canal and in Shinnecock Bay. The water is now still, and you can fish with as little as a one ounce sinker.

Approximately six hours later, the rising tide from Peconic Bay will force open the gates and rush back into Shinnecock Bay and out into the ocean. Needless to say, all fishing ceases until six hours later when the cycle is repeated and fishing is once again available. Boats use the canal to go from one bay to the other, when the gates are closed, by using a large compound whose electrically controlled gates close behind them as they enter. Water is pumped in or out of this compound to bring the boat to the water level of the bay it is entering. This is quite an interesting operation and by itself, well worth the visit.

At the conclusion of this article, there is a method I use that will enable you to enjoy at least five to six hours of good fishing at a time. Follow it and you will never make the mistake of finding impossible fishing conditions in the canal.

Now, let's go to the fishing:

Some flounders can be taken in January, if the weather is not too severe, and you will find these to be a very nice size. Flounders begin biting in the canal toward the end of February. These fish, while of fair size, are thin — but hungry! During the first three weeks of February the fishing is generally slow, due to the extreme cold water. When March arrives, however, the fishing picks up in earnest and there is no trouble in catching all the flounders you could possibly want. As March advances into spring, so do the flounders in size. This is when pieces of skimmer clam, or soft clam, will outfish any other bait; use small pieces about an inch long. April will produce still more flounders, with more good-sized fish becoming available, and during May, the fish begin moving into cooler water, where blood or sandworms will work best. Use two number 9 or 10 Chestertown hooks tied in tandem about two inches above a two ounce sinker. Dispense with the flounder spreader; it too often becomes fouled on the bottom.



Shinnecock Canal, where the waters and the fish run conveniently past the shore-bound fisherman.

May is the month a variety of fish comes into the canal. As mentioned before, weakfish come swarming through on their spawning run into Peconic Bay. The only word suitable to describe this fishing is: **fantastic!** It has been well over thirty years since I have seen such weakfishing as I saw last spring. Any fisherman, properly rigged, could, and did, take a fish on every cast. Hour after hour and day after day this went on for nearly two weeks. If a fish broke off, another immediately slammed the lure.

I remember one morning last May, making one cast and breaking off four fish in succession before bringing one into the net. Many times five and six big weaks would accompany a hooked fish right up to the bulkhead. It is the wildest kind of fishing, and can be enjoyed by anyone.

Artificial lures such as the plastic shrimp tails are proven killers. Use a salmon colored one during the day and a white one at night.

The weaks were all of good size, averaging from two to five pounds apiece. During the first few days of the run, six and seven pounders were quite common.

Night fishing will sometimes start during the third week of April, and those fish taken have been mostly big ones, going as high as eight and nine pounds. Although this is a hit-or-miss proposition, it is certainly worth the effort if you connect. Sometimes a strip of fresh squid on a plain, silver colored jig works well when all else fails. Once the weaks put in their appearance during the day, night fishing remains consistant.

Depending on weather conditions, fluke will begin to show about the third week of May. As has been the general run of things these past two years, most of these fish are throw-backs. There are keepers among them, however, and these run up to five pounds or better.

The best bait by far is a strip of sea robin belly about three inches long. Use a 3/0 or 4/0 long-shanked hook on a three foot leader and run the hook once through the wide end, which will allow it to flutter along the bottom. You should use a long-shanked hook because many a bluefish has been taken in the canal while fluke fishing.

With the aid of a two ounce sinker, cast as far out as possible. When it hits bottom, begin a slow, jerky retrieve as you reel in. Fluke like an active bait, so keep the bait moving at all times. Remember to bring a net as fluke have a cute trick of shaking free when lifted from the water. Fluke fishing continues all summer, with the best fishing in June.

June brings the porgies and kingfish. Sandworms are the best bait, then. Rig the same as for flounders, but use a number 4 Sproat. More of these fish are caught from the breakwater, at the Peconic Bay entrance to the canal, than at the Shinnecock side.

Snappers can always be taken from middle August to early October. They are about the only fish that can be caught with any certainty when the gates are open. A whole fresh spearing, or a small, shiny lure will fill a bucket with these scrappy little blues. Toward the end of September, these snappers will run to 12 inches or more.

So...there you have a rundown on exactly when to fish the Shinnecock Canal, and what to expect. There are a few other fish you may catch occasionally such as blackfish, sea bass, and blowfish. Even a small striper is available from time to time. The experienced striper fisherman can take a nice striper now and then during the dark morning hours of the late summer. A good place to try is the breakwater mentioned before. Bluefish have not been too plentiful these past three years in the canal, but they provided a few hectic moments for the shore-bound fisherman.

Many fishermen ignore the canal, because they don't know just when the tidal gates are closed. Nothing is as frustrating as driving for miles only to find you can't fish because you didn't know the existing conditions. By using the tide tables available in The Long Island Fisherman, or any daily newspaper, you can easily work it out if you do this: using the high tide reading given for Sandy Hook as a referrence point, **deduct** three and a half hours. This will give you the time the gates **close**. **Add** two and a half hours and you will have the time the gates **open**. You can fish anytime during this six hour period; the water will be as quiet as a mill pond.

So hop into the car and follow Montauk Highway — or Sunrise Highway — to Hampton Bays. There is plenty of close-by parking, with plenty of fish waiting for you in the Shinnecock Canal. Go out and get some!

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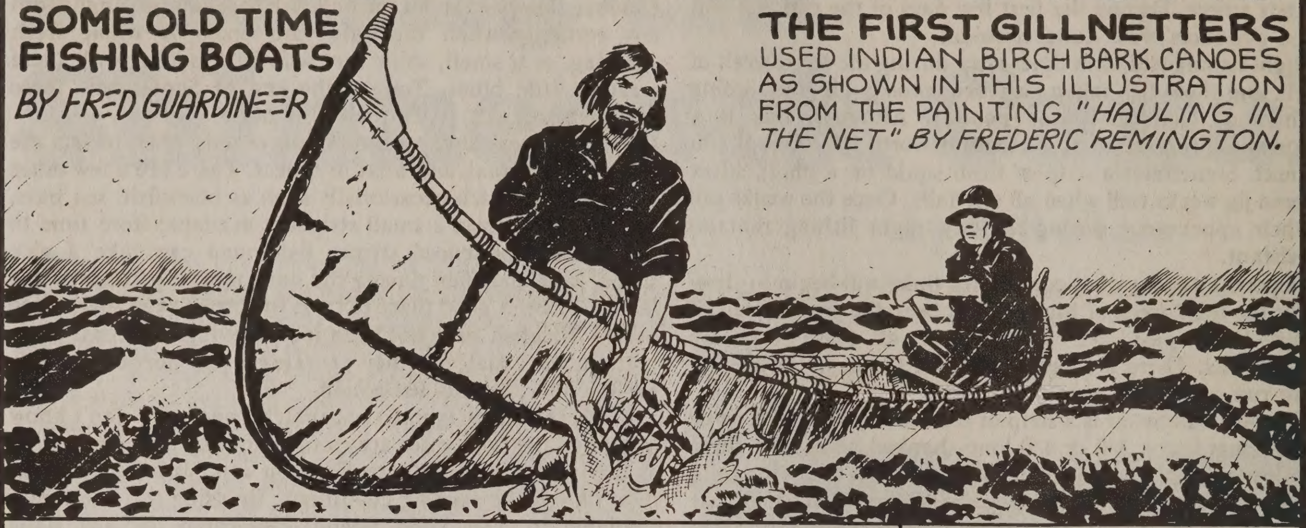
SOME OLD TIME FISHING BOATS

BY FRED GUARDINEER



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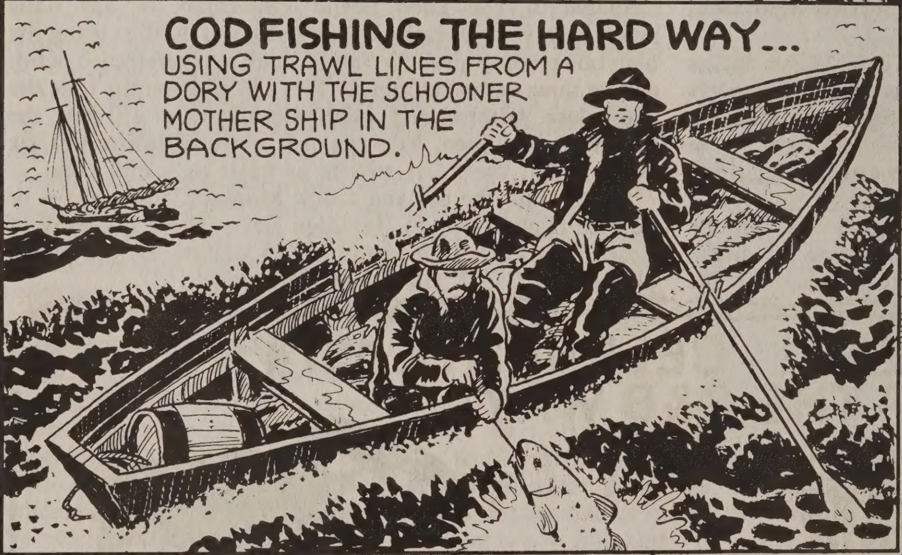

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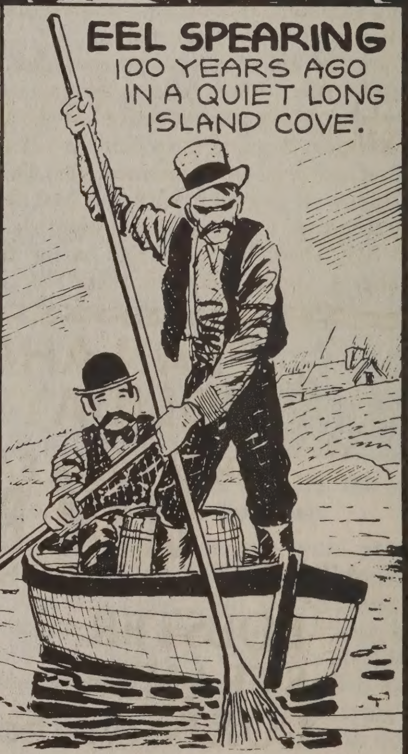
USING TRAWL LINES FROM A DORY WITH THE SCHOONER MOTHER SHIP IN THE BACKGROUND.



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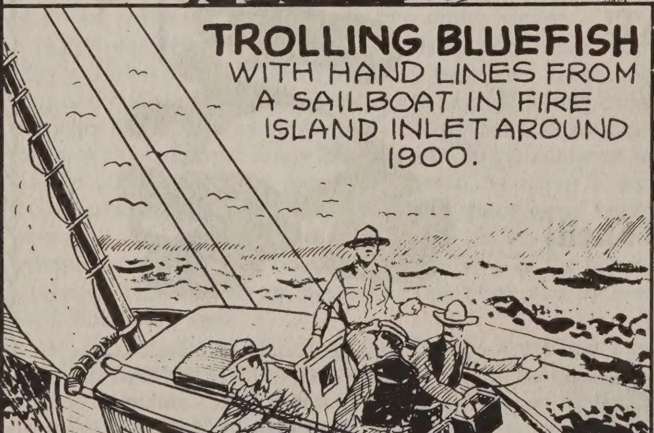

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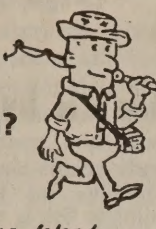

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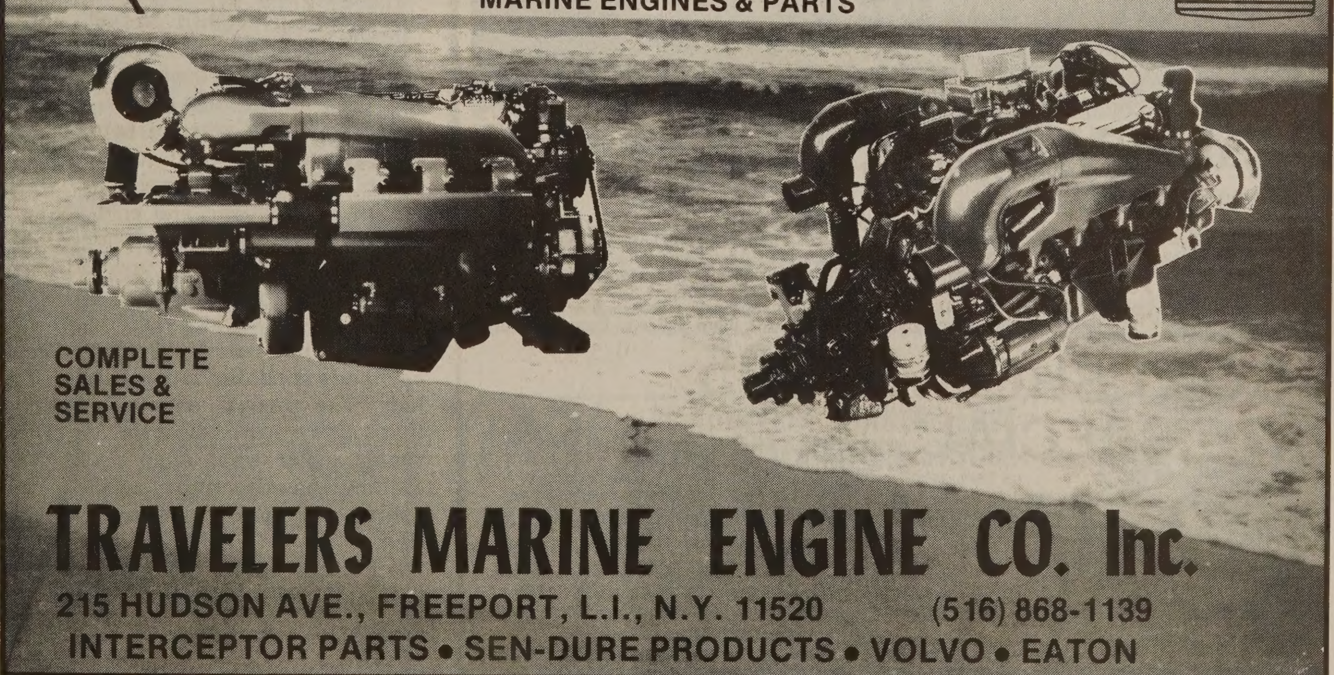

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Ice Fishing is Fun, But...

by Dick Alley

Sure I like ice fishing. Matter of fact, I do it every year. Why the "but" in this title? It's the ice, itself, which could be as strong and as thick as the great wall of China or as thin and soft as a plaster ceiling in the space between the rafters.

Beneath the ice are waters which will slow blood circulation in a matter of minutes. These waters turn lightweight winter-wear into dragging weights in seconds. The ice becomes a table of glass with an oiled surface, impossible to cling to, and the edges become jagged knives that will cut the skin. Ice fishing is fun, as long as you're atop the ice.

When I first sat down at the typewriter, I planned a general article on ice fishing in Connecticut. There are several ways to enjoy ice fishing, and all of the major publications do a terrific job of letting us know just how it's done every year at this time. Southern Connecticut and Long Island, however, just happen to be sited in an area where weather changes from day to day; ice conditions vary greatly throughout the course of the winter season.

Ice shanties, motorized cabins and the like, are not usually found in our area. As we go into northern Connecticut and other colder areas, the larger lakes are dotted with shacks, vehicles, and fishermen on almost any given day, but the ice is thick enough to support them and the anglers have much more experience on the frozen surface of a lake than we do. Our climate is unpredictable, and so is the ice.

How does one judge when the ice is safe? The first consideration should be a minimum of SEVERAL days of sub-freezing temperatures, and I don't mean in the upper twenties. Single numbers, preferably those below the zero mark on the thermometer, are needed to freeze that ice thick and solid.

Knowing the body of water you're planning to fish is extremely important. If that "pond" you're walking on is little more than a wide spot in a river, the water beneath you is moving and will not freeze as quickly as a true lake or pond. How many times have you gone swimming in a lake or pond in mid-summer and suddenly felt a warm spring take the chill off the water? Spring-fed waters can also restrict freezing.

Ask yourself what a sudden thaw does to a frozen surface. A mellow rain with a warm breeze may cause that ice to melt a lot more than you had anticipated.

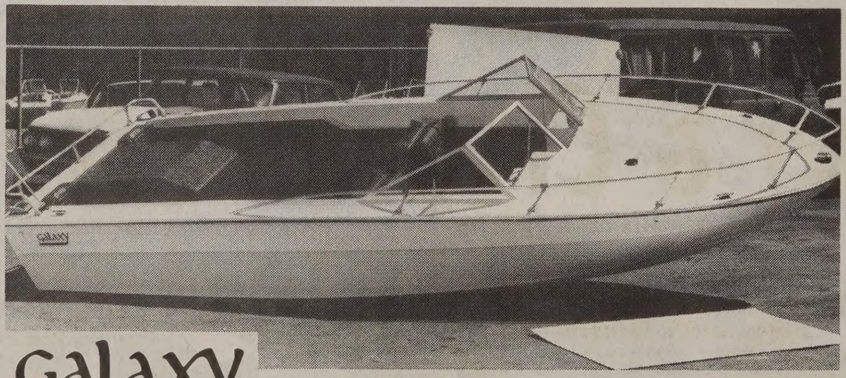
There are other ways to get hurt on the ice. Improper choice of footwear could cause a slip and a fall resulting in bruises or worse. There are many tools designed for the ice fisherman to make his job easier in getting to the fish, yet some darn fool will invariably try chopping a hole with an axe and wind up in the hospital for his troubles. Lack of respect for Mother Nature can result in frostbite or over-exposure to the elements.

NEVER FISH ALONE! A lone fisherman on the ice is like a single bunker trying to swim from Buoy 11B to Eaton's Neck lighthouse in mid-August; one mistake and he's had it. Connecticut law does not allow anglers under 16 to ice-fish at all unless accompanied by a licensed adult. Which brings me to the main reason for this piece in the first place.

Maybe it's 15 years of being a cop and witnessing several ice accidents. Some were happy moments when tearful, soaking wet and cold youngsters were returned to happy parents with a smile. Others were very sad times in my life.

The loss of my good friend and writing idol, Al Reinfelder, keeps coming to mind. But most of all, it's the kids. The thought about ice fishing that's always scared me is the one of the young angler who, after reading an exciting and adventurous article on ice fishing, may go out and try it on his own.

I hope to go ice fishing again this year—IF AND WHEN THE ICE IS SAFE!



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(Continued from page 4.)

off-the-road vehicle user, etc. They all emphasize the minuscule amount of gasoline (in terms of national consumption) that their particular activity requires. For this reason, and because of the adverse economic effects, they all believe they should be allowed to conduct business as usual. If all the special interest groups believe they should be granted immunity from any form of gasoline rationing or conservation, where are the necessary savings (meaning reduced consumption) coming from? It isn't realistic for everyone to point their finger at someone else and say, "Okay, we need to save gas - so you do it because my little bit doesn't count." It all counts.

I'm not suggesting that we boaters and fishermen should be martyrs and lead the way through our self sacrifice. We, along with all the other special interest groups, can't maintain the ridiculous position that our use of gasoline for pleasure and recreational purposes is somehow apart from the total energy picture. The days of cheap and plentiful gasoline are gone forever. All dimensions of our life style - including recreation - are going to be dramatically changed. Robert H. Schaefer.

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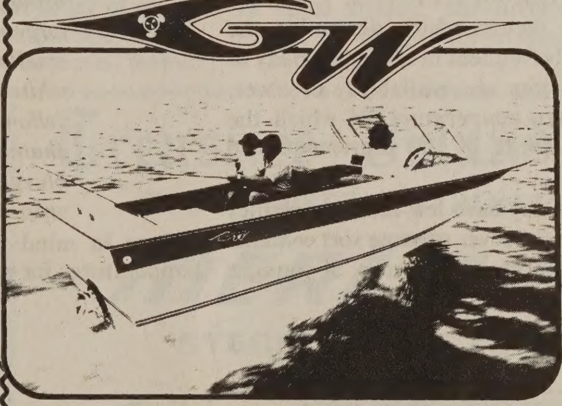

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Water Temperature Makes the Difference

by Don Vetter

With the cold winter winds rattling the window sash and the only freshwater action available some early run white perch or ice fishing upstate for those hardy tip-up tenders so inclined, opening day — and the subsequent season ahead — seems an eternity away.

Staring glassy-eyed into a crackling log fire and contemplating the successes and failures of seasons past is a pleasant pastime that may prove rewarding in the future, if we take the trouble to fathom the reasons why the successful trips WERE successful. When the hissing, popping yellow flame in the fireplace becomes a leaping largemouth bass or a struggling brown trout beneath our hypnotic gaze, a bit of thought regarding how that gamester of yore came to wind up at the end of our line may result in a repeat performance in the upcoming season.

Back in 1972, I wrote an article for L.I.F. (Vol. 7, #35 — September 14) detailing the factors which determine the areas gamefish will consistantly frequent in any given body of water. The three cardinal factors are availability of cover, food supply present and water temperature, of which the latter received rather short shrift in the aforementioned article.

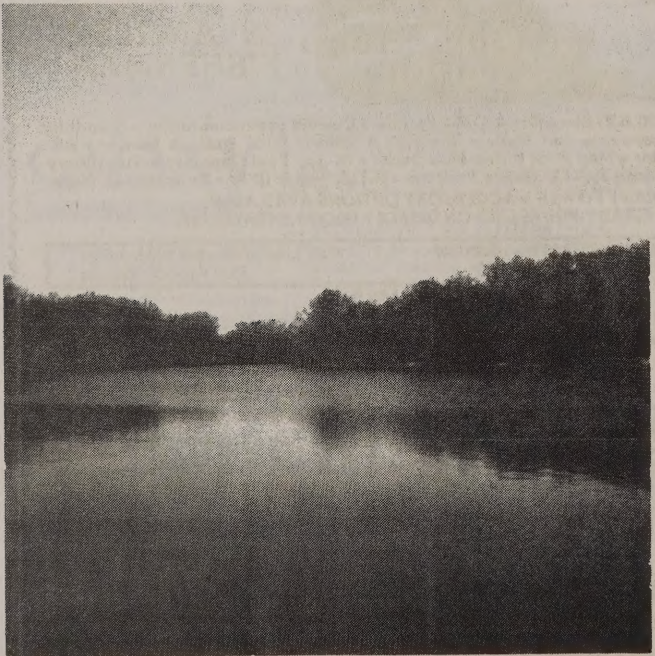
Though a mature gamefish may have few natural enemies in his own element, the security of cover of some sort remains a prime consideration, perhaps through memory of younger days when the small fish was at the mercy of larger predators. Food supply is an obvious essential, for a fish must eat to survive.

Given the presence of the first two conditions, the third factor may be the deciding one, as cold-blooded fish assume the body temperature of the water in which they swim, making that temperature a question of survival, rather than mere comfort, should the range be too extreme for the species in question.

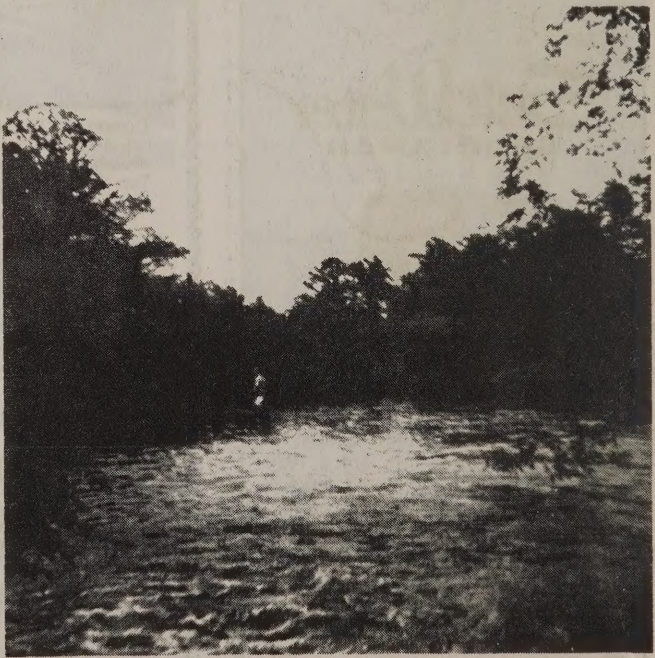
Since each species require a different water temperature, the following table for some of the fish indigenous to our area, and the temperature range each prefers, should provide a useful general guide:

rainbow trout	60-70°
brown trout	55-70°
brook trout	55-65°
largemouth bass	70-75°
smallmouth bass	65-70°
white perch	55-70°
yellow perch	55-70°
chain pickerel	50-70°
bluegill sunfish	65-75°
crappie	65-75°

Bear in mind that these ranges indicate the optimum temperatures for each species; those at which they are likely



Different factors effect water temperatures in lakes . . .



. . . than in streams.

to be their most active and feed most readily. It should serve as a general indicator only, for many species will be found to frequent water well outside their preferred temperature range.

Trout, especially brook trout and, to a lesser extent, rainbows, are far less tolerant of diverse temperatures than are most other fish. It is difficult indeed to take brookies where the water temperature exceeds 65° and, when the temperature reaches the low 70's, their very survival is in question.

Bass, on the other hand, particularly largemouths (the predominant member of the black bass family on Long Island), will thrive and often feed actively when the water temperature is well into the 80's.

White perch, though they may indeed prefer the 55 to 70° range indicated by the table, can be taken readily from tidal streams during the winter months when the water temperature is close to the freezing point. Pickerel seem to be the least temperature conscious of all freshwater fish, being equally at home and active during the hottest of summer's dog days as they are beneath the winter's ice.

In order to find the water temperature preferred by the fish you are seeking, it is necessary to have a good fisherman's thermometer. Since it is also essential to determine the depth of water at which the desired temperature occurs, an instrument which combines both functions, such as Vexilar's Deptherm, is the best one to use.

Affixed to the end of your line in the manner of a lure, cast out and allowed to settle, this inexpensive instrument will provide you with the information you require. Very few freshwater fishermen, probably something on the order of one in one hundred, employ such thermometers in pursuit of their sport, which is a shame as results might be improved tenfold by their judicious use.

Lakes, ponds and streams each have different factors which determine water temperature. The majority of the Island's ponds are too shallow to produce the thermocline effect and are relatively uniform in water temperature from top to bottom, with only shade or flowing water from inlet streams or springs to provide cooler spots.

Dams and any other barriers may provide cooler water at the outlet, provided the water flows UNDER said barriers. The principle of convection, which causes warmer water to rise and cold water to fall, is the reason surface water is the warmest. When the water flows OVER a dam, it is this warm surface water we are dealing with and little or no cooling occurs at the outlet.

Although all moving water tends to be somewhat cooler than standing water, there is a wide diversity in temperature from stream to stream, and even at different locations on the same stream. What causes a cold water trout stream such as the Connetquot to be so different from a warm bass water like the Peconic River, since they are both flowing waters?

To answer this question, we must consider the factors by which a stream attains and loses heat. Streams are heated by in-coming sunshine and lose heat through evaporation and radiation. With this in mind, it is easy to see how a broad, relatively unshaded river like the Peconic is warmed by the greater proportion of sunshine it is able to absorb, while a narrower, fast flowing stream with heavily shaded head waters such as the Connetquot remains cool.

Heavily foliated locations may provide cooler spots, while broad shallow sections may be considerably warmer — all on the same stream. Sub-surface flowages from dams also provide a cooling effect on stream water. The impact of lack

(Continued on page 37.)

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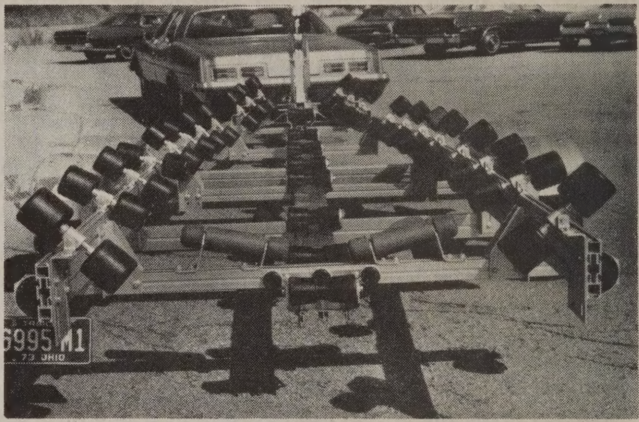

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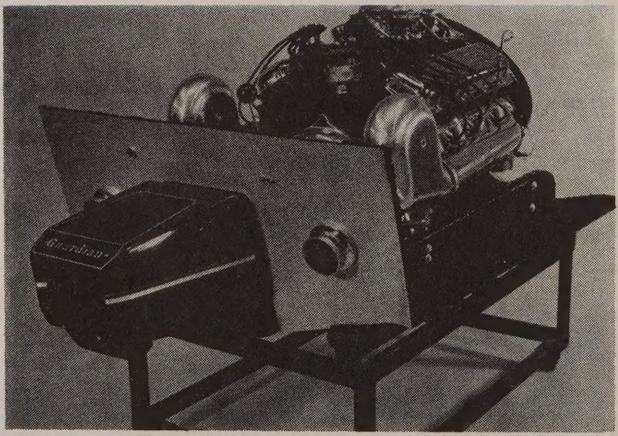

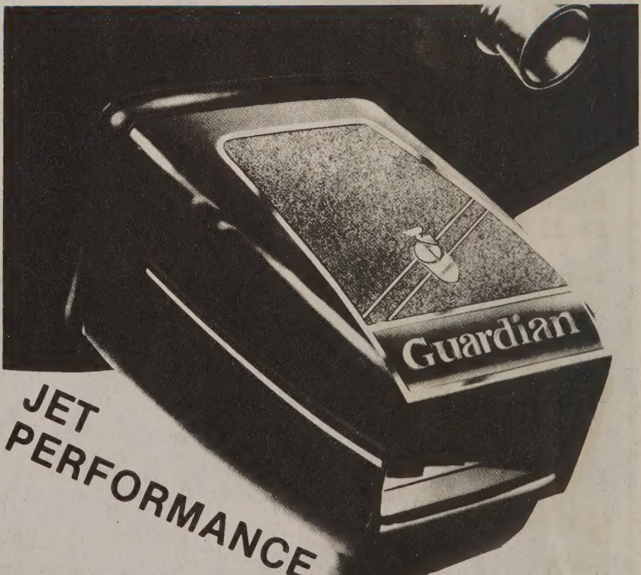

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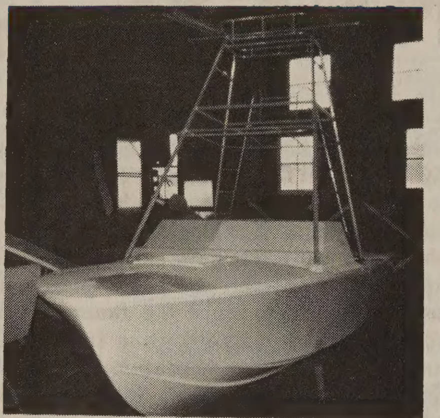

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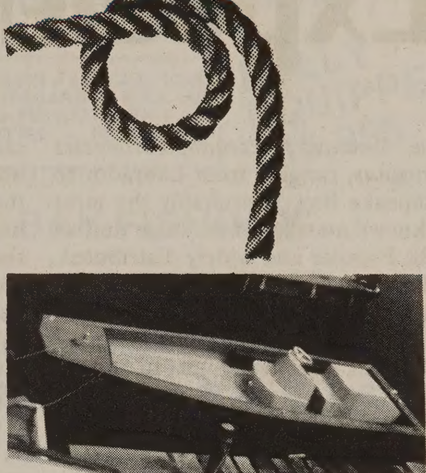

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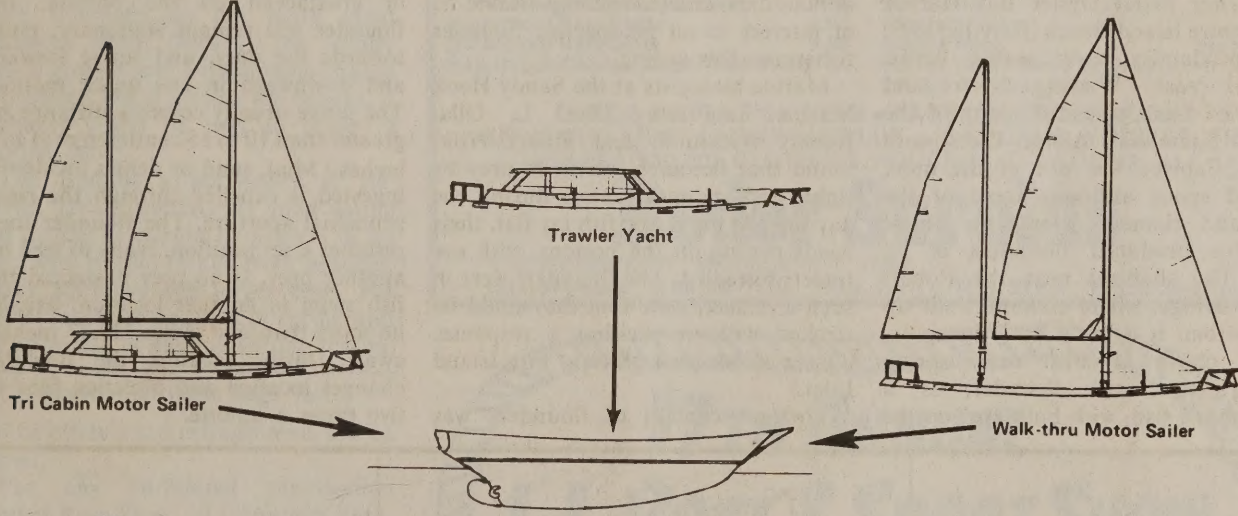

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The Fish with the Expedient Eye

by Frank Berrafato

The flounder, *Pseudopleuronectes americanus*, ranging from Labrador to Chesapeake Bay, is probably the most well-known member of the huge flatfish family. Popular and widely distributed, the flounder has acquired a flock of nicknames: "blackback," "mud dab," "rough flounder," "black flounder," and "winter flounder"—just to name a few.

Last year, some unseasonably mild weather in March brought flounders out of the mud before the traditional St. Patrick's Day opening. Long Island Sound provided shore and boat fishermen with many excellent spots: this writer found Oyster Bay Harbor and Centre Island Beach (Bayville) to be very productive early season areas. Farther east, Wading River and Promised Land provided many of the larger flounders. Along the South Shore, Captree was one of the more favored spots, although most of the bays and channels along the entire shoreline produced flounders of all sizes. The shallows near the Robert Moses Bridge, where clammers stir up the bottom, is a usual early hotspot.

The object of most early spring fishing trips, the flounder, is a disc-shaped fish, with both eyes on the same side. A flounder is not born this way. The small fish, as it emerges from the egg, has an eye on each side of the head and swims upright, as do other fish. When just a few days old, one eye moves across the forehead to a place close to the other. Since the flounder will spend most of its life lying in the mud on one side, this relocation of the eye not only improves his vision, but literally keeps the mud out of his eye.

Flounders have been the object of many scientific studies. One scientific paper published in the *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* (1969) concerns itself with the feeding habits of flounders, and the findings should be of interest to all prospective flounder fishermen this spring.

Marine biologists at the Sandy Hook Marine Laboratory (Bori L. Olla, Robert Wicklund, and Stuart Wilk) found that flounders orient to prey by sight, and are most active during the daytime. At night, the fish lay flat, their heads resting on the bottom, with eye turrets retracted. The flounders were in such a relaxed state that they could be stroked without eliciting a response. (Observations took place at Fire Island Inlet.)

The gut content of flounders was analyzed at different times. Stomachs were found to be empty just before sunrise, but contained food at other times. (An indication that food was not taken during the night.) Gut contents also revealed that flounders feed mainly on bivalve molluscs and gastropods. Other food items included algae, annelids, crustaceans and sea anemones.

Marine biologists observed that flounders have a certain method of feeding. While actively feeding, flounders extend their eye turrets and move the eyes independently of each other. Sighting prey, such as a small mollusc or crustacean on the bottom, the flounder will remain stationary, point towards the prey, and lunge forward and downward in one quick motion. The lunge usually covers a distance no greater than 10 to 15 centimeters (4 to 6 inches.) Mud, sand or debris incidently ingested is expelled through the right bronchial aperture. The flounder then resumes a set position, ready to feed on another prey. If no prey is sighted the fish swim to another location, usually no more than one meter (39.37 inches) away. During feeding, the flounder changes location and direction four to five times a minute.

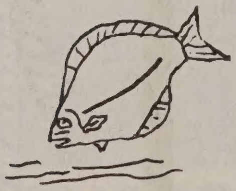

FIGURE 1.

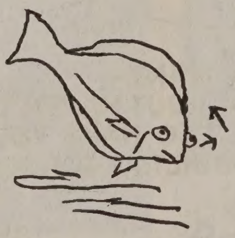

FIGURE 2.

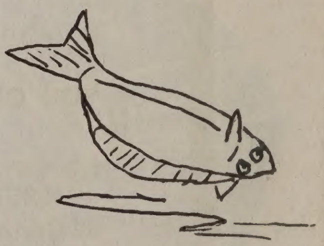

FIGURE 3.

Young flounders have an eye on each side of the head and swim upright like other fish. (Fig. 1.) Several weeks later one eye moves up and around the head. (Fig. 2). The flounder then swims on its side and the under blindside turns white. (Fig. 3).

Flounders are sensitive to temperature. Researchers found them active and feeding in temperatures up to 22.2°C(approximately 72°F.) At higher temperatures, flounders were observed to be inactive, their heads resting on the bottom. They evidently avoid high temperatures by burying into sand which has a lower temperature then the overlying water. This finding should be of special interest to Long Island fishermen, since the warm water outflows of power plants could pose a real threat to the flounder population in some of the inshore areas of Long Island Sound.

The average layman can learn quite a bit from the scientist, with his technical reports and formal language. From the foregoing observations, it would seem that the best chances to catch flounders would be in the early morning hours, when the fish are just beginning to feed. Their stomach contents (small bivalves, crustaceans) also indicate that flounders feed on small tidbits found right on the bottom. Small pieces of bait should be used, along with a small, long shank hook (Chestertown) for easy extraction. Since flounders do not move great distances while feeding, the angler should give an area a reasonable chance to produce, but if no fish are caught, it probably would be best to move to another spot.

The flounder's popularity is deserved. He's exceptionally good eating and he can be caught by anglers of all ages, with simple tackle, from beaches, docks, rowboats and larger craft. His arrival marks the advent of spring and the approach of another fishing season.

(Continued from page 7.)

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The Winter Crazies

by Bruce Sucher

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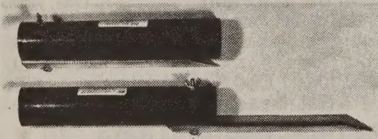

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I have never eaten a herring that I caught. I have frozen them to be used later as bait, or have given them to people who were going to pickle them. Then what the heck am I doing here? My right hand is aching and frozen to the reel seat. I look at the person next to me who's watching the sun set. He's jigging slowly. Suddenly the weight of his rig is gone. Fish on! It's landed quickly and freezes solid. I look in his bucket. A baby tarpon-like fish. But what the heck am I doing here?

I cast and let my diamond jig touch bottom. I retrieve slowly and with occasional jerks. A fish grabs the jig: I begin slowly bringing it in. The fight is not that of a blue or bass, but it's good for a small fish. Then another hit on one of the tubes and the rod is bent another ten degrees. The fish are on the surface, fighting against the rod's pressure, fighting against each other. I lift them out of the water and pounce on them.

Suddenly I'm no longer cold. My right hand is no longer numb. The fish are coming faster now. One, two, three at a time. One fellow, his name is Mike, pulls in five at one time. He hand-lines them in and shakes them off the tubes, not touching the fish to avoid a coating of water and slime that would freeze his gloves solid. The sun is gone and we're fishing in darkness. The action slows. "See you tomorrow." "Yeah, manana." One by one we pick up our fish and disappear.

Herring arrive in the New York area in December or January, depending upon the severity of the winter. They may be the same, but larger fish that were here during the late summer months, or a new school that migrated into the area.

Herring weigh about one pound, but sometimes you'll get them up to two and one-half pounds. When the fishing is fast you'll catch as many as you like. At other times, you start asking yourself the "What the heck am I doing here?" question.

The air temperature can be anywhere from below zero to fifty above. As long as the water temperature is around forty-five, you're okay. You're okay as far as it's possible to catch herring, but if it's about twenty degrees with a fifteen knot nor'easter blowing and there is a little snow falling, then you're not really okay, you are a little crazy. I'll be standing right next to you.

There are two ways of fishing for herring. One of them is with bait and the other with tubes and small diamond jigs. Generally, the more hooks the better. For bait fishing use a two-ounce sinker or whatever is necessary to hold bottom. Starting about a foot above the lead, tie a #2 Carlisle or Aberdeen directly to the line. Every four inches tie another hook until you have about five hooks on your rig.

This time of year bait is hard to come by. Use a small strip of squid about one-inch long by ¼-inch wide, a small chunk of shrimp, or a herring cut into small strips. Fish stores will have all these baits.

Jigging is more productive because it offers the incentive of warmth in your movement. The tubes and jigs you used for mackerel can double as herring equipment. The difference is in the number of tubes you'll use. The type most frequently used are plastic or surge tubes of various colors slipped onto an Aberdeen hook.

Other methods utilize a piece of tin foil wrapped around the shank of the bare hook, thin, insulated telephone wire wrapped onto the shank, silver mylar tape or even colored drinking straws. Obviously, the fish are not too fussy about what they'll hit. I've seen as many as fifteen hooks used, tied about three inches apart. I prefer five or six. The idea is to imitate a small school of spearing. On the bottom, use either a sinker or a small diamond jig. I prefer a Hopkins No-eql, but that's up to you.

The best time to fish is towards sunset, and the best tide is high near incoming or just outgoing. I've fished Steeplechase pier, the honeyboat bulkhead at the foot of Knapp street in Sheapshead bay, and the Howard Beach bridge. All produce fish.

When the winter fidgets get you, put on your long-johns or thermals, shoe packs and watch caps and give it a try. You'll remember how much fun it is to be crazy.

NEWS RELEASES
(Continued from page 8.)

consideration.

The Office for Local Government suggests that when you write in to comment on a bill, identify it properly—using the bill number assigned to it by the house in which it was introduced. If the bill has been amended, add the alphabetical designation of the copy of the bill to which you are referring. For example if a bill number 7787 was introduced in the Senate and amended once, it would be Senate 7787-A.

Next, describe the bill generally and talk briefly about the present law and how this bill would change it. Give your specific reasons for your support or opposition.

Above all, be brief. With so many bills to consider during the typical session, legislators and the governor's staff appreciate concise comments on bills. Often they will reward your brevity with added attention.

The best time to make comments on specific legislation is while it is still in committee. Send your comments to the committee chairman with copies to members of the committee. You may also want to send a copy to your local legislators.

More hints on making your voice known in Albany are available in "State Legislation: Information and Advice" available from the Office for Local Government, 155 Washington Avenue, Albany, N.Y. 12210.

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The N.Y.S. Environmentalist, January 1, 1974.

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Sleeping sharks, fiddler crab behavior, poisonous flounders, farming the sea, and saturation diving in the Bahamas will be among the topics at the all-day symposium "Your Future in the Sea."

The symposium, sponsored by the American Littoral Society, will be held at Hunter College, 69th at Park Ave., New York City, on March 2, 1974, from 12:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. and from 8:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m.

The symposium is open to the public. Price of tickets is: For Society members, $2.00 daytime, $3.50 evening, $5.00 both; non-members $3.00 daytime, $4.00 evening, $6.00 both. More information on the symposium may be obtained by writing to the Littoral Society, Highlands, N.J. 07732.

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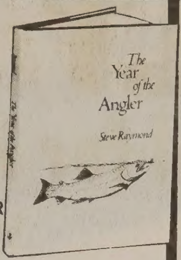

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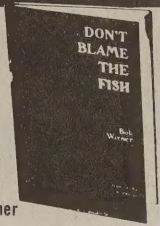

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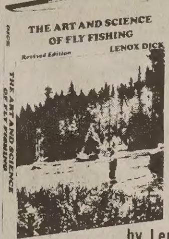

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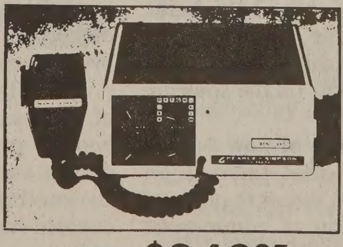

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SALT MARSHES

Essential for Healthy Coastal Fisheries

by Dr. William A. Muller

Scientists are measuring the rate at which the ebbing tide carries nutrients out of the marsh into the main channel. (Photo by Dr. John J. Lee.)

This is the time of year when the avid fisherman begins to prepare for the onrushing fishing season. If this winter's mild weather continues, our tackle will have to be in tip-top shape for an early flatfish season. While many of us turn our attention to the construction of new rods and the reconstruction of old reels, clean out tackle boxes, sharpen hooks, and replace lost lures, it seems strange to me how little thought is given to how our quarry replenishes its numbers in the briny deep.

Many species of fish that are common in Long Island waters are under attack from power plants, haul seine operations, industrial effluents, possible offshore oil exploration, overharvesting by foreign fishing fleets, and sewage pollution. Many of these attacks occur on the spawing grounds.

The vast majority of fishermen are aware of how serious these threats are, but few of us realize that there is an insidious and perhaps even more dangerous threat to many of our coastal fisheries. The entire discussion of commercial interests versus environmental protection may become a moot one within a few years—if we overlook the continuous exploitation and destruction of salt marshes. For example, of the original salt marshes in the United States only about 30% remain. Furthermore, the number and diversity of organisms found in those marshes that do remain has been altered by pollution.

Many poorly informed people believe that salt marshes are nothing more than soggy tracts of bog that may give off offensive odors and are the breeding ground for mosquitos and other bothersome insects. Because the ecological value of wetlands is so poorly understood, and because the real estate value of water front property is well known, they are filled in by developers, polluted by sewage, used as garbage dumps, exploited for the construction of sports complexes, overharvested by baymen, and sprayed with insecticides.

Actually, salt marshes are inexorably linked to the vitality of the seas. Remember that all regions of the oceans are not equally productive of fishes. The open oceans are virtual deserts and, for all intents and purposes, only the waters over the continental shelves, and especially the shallow estuaries, contain vast populations of fishes. Of course, included in this group are most species of gamefish that we pursue so vigorously.

Salt marshes have many vital functions. They abosorb excess water during storms—thus preventing floods and the filling in of harbors by sedimentation, they serve as quiet harbors, they are highly productive of algae and shellfish, and, most important to the readers of this magazine, they are the breeding areas and nursery grounds for many gamefishes and baitfishes.

Spearing, killies, and menhaden are a few examples of baitfish that are dependent upon salt marshes as a place where the young feed and mature while finding some protection from predators, strong winds, and violent water currents. Grass shrimp collect around beds of *Zostera* (eel grass) as do thousands of species of algae and bacteria, hundreds of species of small animals, and many large animals including turtles, muskrats, ducks and an occasional harbor seal.

The weakfish is one of our most popular local gamefishes, and the species is very dependent upon extensive marshes. The weakfish spawns in the beds of eel grass in late spring, the fry grow to fingerling size in the protection of the undulating grass, and the adults feed on the abundant grass shrimp and baitfish found throughout the marsh waters. Many marine biologists believe that a recurring fungus disease which decimates the eel grass and eliminates the spawning and feeding habitat in turn causes the cyclical abundance of the weakfish.

The young of other species of gamefishes are also commonly found in the marsh-bordered estuaries. Hordes of snapper blues invade the bays and harbors each summer, and, although striped bass spawn in the deep waters of major rivers, the fry gravitate toward the shoreline marshes soon after hatching. In addition, large schools of juvenile bass are frequently intercepted roaming the tidal flats of shallow, marshy bays in search of small baits.

The shallow channels running through SPARTINA contain a wealth of baitfish and shellfish in a healthy, undisturbed marsh. (Photo by Dr. John J. Lee.)

Salt marshes are amazing habitats. They contain a great diversity of life and they are more productive than man-managed farms. Marshes are nature's marine farms. A healthy salt marsh can produce as much as 242 pounds of organic material per acre per year! Much of these rich foodstuffs finds its way into the waters of the marsh and nearby estuaries and, ultimately, into the gamefishes of our coastal waters.

Part of the reason for this amazing productivity lies in the physical diversity of the marsh. Marshes are graded habitats—sloping from deep channels to mud flats to the edge of the forest. Each change of the tide redistributes nutrients, wastes, and many species of animals and plants.

(Continued on page 35.)

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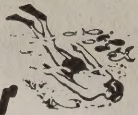
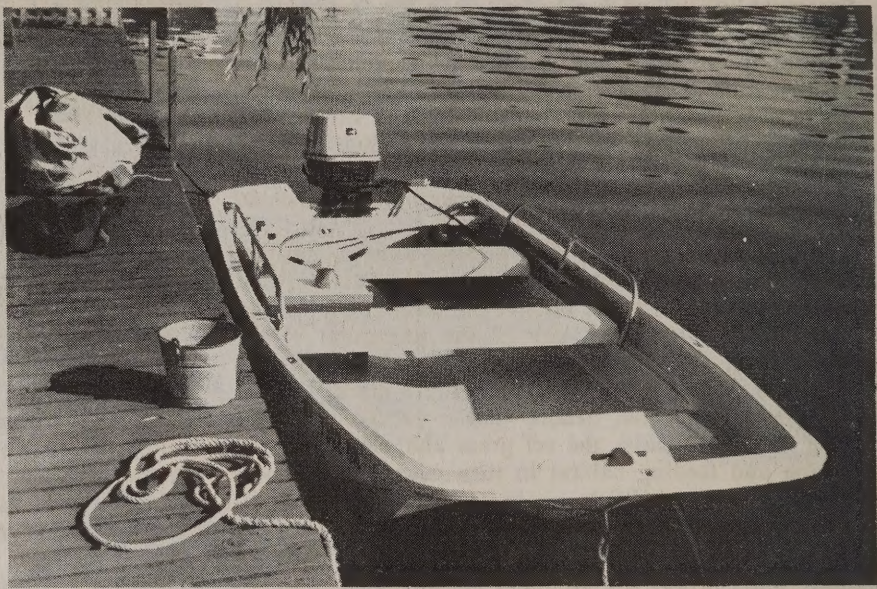
Small Boats for Divers

by Bill Bornscheur





A well-built, small, open boat can hold two divers and a surprising amount of gear.

Putting his boat on a trailer extends the diver's range considerably, thus his possibilities of success.

Anyone who has dragged his diving gear along a beach or rocky shore to reach that favorite spot usually arrives at the destination puffing and panting, muttering unprintable words about how heavy SCUBA tanks are and how nice it would be if only someone owned a boat. Let's face it, readily accessible dive spots are few and far between, and even these can be troublesome. It's usually the guys in a 4WD that get to the water's edge.

The answer, of course, is the floating thing Christopher Columbus made famous, the boat. But what kind of boat should you buy? How much money should be spent? How big should a diving boat be to accomodate people and gear? Is fiberglass construction best?

Surprisingly enough, one of the finest group of boats available for divers consists of the fantastic, air-filled jobs like the Zodiacs, which are the same type that Captain Cousteau made famous on his TV shows. These air-filled boats are made to order for a variety of reasons: 1. you can easily stow the packed boat in the trunk of the car; 2. inflatables can carry more weight and passengers than any similar conventional boat of equal size; 3. their cost is less than most quality fiberglass, wood or aluminum boats of comparable size; 4. they are not easily sunk—construction is usually of a tough fabric impregnated with neoprene, with the air trapped in separate chambers so if you puncture one you can still get safely ashore.

Basically there are two types of air boats. The first does not have a solid transom or wood bottom, and the second, or "high speed", type is capable of supporting powerful engines and has wood floorboards and transoms. Some of the inflatable boat manufacturers are Zodiac, Avon, Bonair, Lidair, Seamless and Recreonics (Kayak division.)

Switching to fiberglass boats, one has stood out for many years—the ever-popular line of Boston Whalers. I own a 13ft. Whaler and use it for diving each year. Equipped with a 40 hp. engine, the small Whaler is plenty fast, even when loaded to the hilt with two men and a full complement of equipment.

I trailer my boat so as to have access to diving both north and south shores. Whalers are easily trailered, handle well in the water, provide the necessary space for getting suited up, and, one important thing as well, they are easy to get in and out of. Nothing can be more frustrating than not being able to climb back into your boat after a dive. The Whaler is a quality boat, built well to last a long time. Whaler's newer model, the "Outrage", is an extremely comfortable riding boat. If you combine your diving with fishing, these shallow-draft boats are great and enable you to navigate the shoal areas that larger boats must avoid.

One of the newest boats to enter the market is the Dell Quay Dory. This glass boat with double watertight hull is literally unsinkable. Similar in looks to the Boston Whaler, its combination "V" and tri-hull make it a smooth-riding craft in most sea conditions. Completely swamped, the boat will still run; the reason is its reserve buoyancy:

in the 17 footer, this equates to 3,000 pounds, and in the 13 footer, 1,500 pounds. The Dory is self-bailing and will accomodate 4 divers and all their gear. Originally manufactured in England, its popularity grew so greatly that they are now found in the U.S.

The open fiberglass boats with center console have enjoyed a booming growth with thousands of sport fishermen that like to run to the sea and get there fast, without pounding themselves to pieces. Boats such as the Mako, Aquasport and Seabird are quality right down the line ... and they make fine dive-boats as well. A wide selection of powerplants and boat lengths make them very attractive, and I'm sure more and more divers will be investing in them. All three manufacturers designed these boats with lots of space, and this is just what a diver needs. About the only thing needed for a complete rig would be a good diving ladder.

If you are interested in boats for diving, some of those mentioned above, plus many others, will be on display at the Long Island Boat Show, February 16—24, at the Nassau Coliseum. Maybe I'll see you there.

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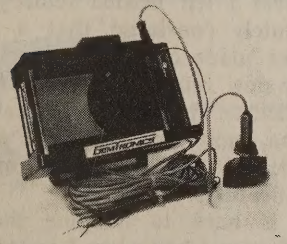

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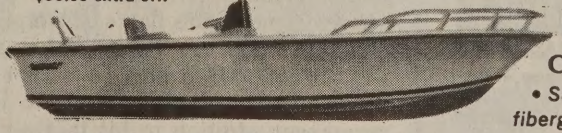

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Summer-izing in Winter

by William N. Herold

Most northeastern anglers are forced to endure many anxious days during the initial onslaught of winter. A few token individuals religiously pursue cod and pollock from the local head boats, but as a rule most of them are relegated to the tasks of repair, etc. I, as many others, shorten this time of oppression by exploiting the ice-fishing possibilities of my area. Nonetheless, the time spent away from actual fishing is painfully long at this time of year.

If there is a way to ease the anxiety of a neurotic fisherman, other than fishing itself, it is by channeling all of his energies into other aspects of angling. I personally have found several releases which save me from virtual hibernation. Basic experimentation and testing are an essential part of my winter routine now.

I have found over the years that I continually take my fishing equipment and fishing ability for granted. It is so easy to expect that all the necessary items for successful fishing can be purchased at the local tackle shop, but, although the spectrum of fishing gear is vast, these stores cannot always provide you with the needed items.

Examples are a dime a dozen. How effective would a sinking popper be with a small strip of pork rind on its tail hook, (provided it wasn't a treble)? How effective would a small Creek Chub popper be if its bucktail were removed? The possibilities are endless. It simply takes the inactivity of winter to afford you the time to find out the answers. Who knows, you may develop a famous lure of your own someday.

I was surprised one day by a friend of mine who happens to be an avid fisherman. He saw me purchase several jars of pork rind in the freshwater bass size. He asked me why I had bought that size rind, and, when I told him that I used it in conjunction with my bucktail jigs, he merely frowned. He hadn't conceived of the potential the combination would have. He had reasoned that the hair body of the jig would be adequate enticement. When I relayed some of this lure's accomplishments, i.e. stripers, blues, fluke, and weakfish, he was quick to accept its merits. I am sure he will make it a permanent addition to his tackle box.

It is hard to realize that there are so many unexplored horizons in marine angling. The area of lures alone, is one which is limitless. How many times have fishermen looked into their tackle boxes and wished they had this or that lure which would be somewhat different from the scores of popular lures which lay at their disposal. Most fishermen have outstanding, inventive ideas at these moments.

For some reason, these flashes of brilliance seem to fade away as days go on. One tends to believe that the development of such ideas is for the varied scribes and experts on assorted magazine staffs. Simply stated, that's bull! During the winter I take it upon myself to develop and experiment with the many ideas I conjured up during the season. *Now* is the time for making your own lures, rods, or whatever.

This year I made it a point to make myself several lures which are variations of those sold commercially. I grant you, there are hundreds of brands, but inevitably there are some things missing.

An example of this was my own need for a small surface popper this past spring. On several occasions I hit upon school bass that were just waiting for the appropriately-sized popper. I took several on a ½-ounce Creek Chub, but, in my estimation, a smaller size would have been better. To no avail I searched the stores for such a lure. What is more, the fact that Creek Chubs sink was a problem I felt needed remedy. I am absolutely convinced that a smaller popper made of wood (to facilitate a super-slow retrieve) would have been the ticket. This winter I recalled my dilema, and proceeded to make a couple of test lures to my own specifications.

It is hard to imagine the sheer satisfaction I had when I tested one of the small poppers I had made. Although it was mid-December, with no fish in evidence, it was a real kick to see the way that little piece of wood danced on the water. I can't wait until next spring!

I have also gone hog-wild over making my own jigs. A simple scan of any of the numerous mailing houses will provide you with an amazing assortment of supplies. Adapting these supplies to your own ideas and needs is great fun. Molds, bucktail, dynel, mylar, jig tape, and hooks are the basic components. Once you get used to placing orders with these companies, you have it made.

With prices what they are today, anyone can figure the economic feasibility of producing your own lures—be it jigs, or whatever. The basic act of having produced a successful lure with your own two hands is enough to eleviate some of winter's oppression.

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SALT MARSHES

(Continued from page 31.)

What fisherman hasn't cast a lure to the edge of the marshy bank as the ebbing tide carried a wealth of bait off the tidal flats and into the main channel where the gamefish were lurking? This is standard operating procedure for local sharpies from Maine to Florida.

As the seasons change, so, too, do the species of fishes in the marsh. Seasonal succession involves physical and biological changes. Fishermen look forward to the change of seasons because the phenomena is reflected by the migration of baitfish and the gamefish that feed on them, especially in the fall of the year. Each autumn the marshes give up the bounty that they have nurtured all spring and summer.

But many creatures do not migrate. Instead, they may burrow in the sand or mud and hibernate during cold weather. The marsh grass dies away and its remains are converted by bacteria into nutrients that will be useful to the plants in the spring for renewed growth.

We need a moratorium on the exploitation of our salt marshes. It is true that the federal government has protected some salt marshes under the National Seashores Act and New York State will continue to purchase wetlands with the funds provided by the recently approved environmental bond issue. However, this still leaves vast tracts of unprotected marsh. Thus, builders and developers continue to fill in our marshes during the construction of housing and recreational facilities. Yet, there exists many cases in which owners of waterfront property have been able to plan a course of action that preserved the ecology of the marshes when they developed the land.

Dredging is another potential hazard to the vitality of the marsh. To be realistic, environmentalists cannot expect a complete end to dredging. Too many economic, recreational, and personal commitments have been made and the needs of our society preclude such a moratorium. It is true that some dredging operation should be stopped because the long range value of healthy, undisturbed marshes exceeds that of short-term economic gain.

But what about the marshes, harbors, and creeks where people already live and play? I believe a compromise is in order. Mature judgement and careful planning leading to more sensible dredging practices could go a long way toward protecting the interests of environmentalists, private interest groups, and the wildlife of the marshes.

Because dredge spoils are often disposed of too casually, many tidal creeks have to be dredged every few years. Sand and mud from the dredging operations are too frequently heaped close to the dredge site. Wind and waves quickly remove the sediments from the shore and deposit them right back in the main channel. The results of dredging would probably last a lot longer if the creek entrances were carefully jettied and if the dredge spoils were removed to areas that were less susceptible to ecological damage and erosion. However, dredge spoils should never be used to fill in marshes.

In this way perhaps creeks would need to be dredged less often—perhaps only every few decades—which would allow the habitat to stabilize between such operations. There is no doubt that the initial expense would be high but I believe that we must all face the fact that a healthy environment and good fishing for the future has a price tag that must be paid today!

The future of our coastal fisheries is at stake! Let's "Save Our Wetlands."

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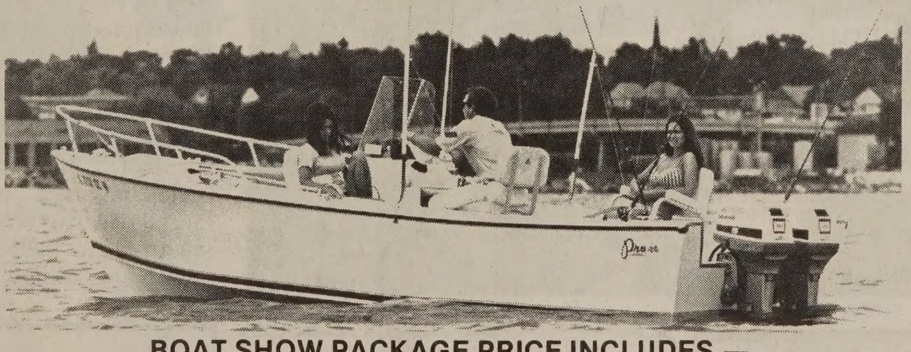

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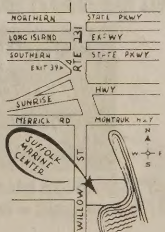

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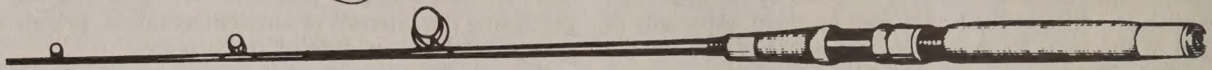
FISHING METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

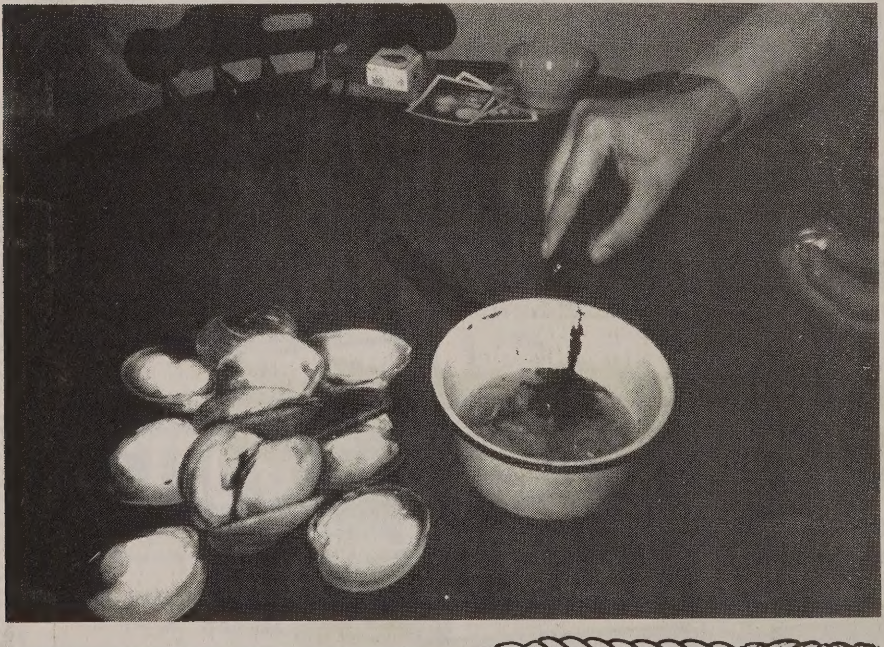
How To Dye Clams



As the price of blood and sandworms have steadily sky-rocketed to gourmet food levels in the last few years, dyed clams—as a substitute flounder bait—have received increasingly greater acceptance among fishermen. When flounders are abundant in the spring, the availability of worms, and their size and quality, are often questionable. At these times, a batch of dyed clams in the freezer makes an excellent back-up bait.

Chowder and skimmer clams may both be dyed. The clams are shucked and thoroughly washed and cleansed of sand with fresh water. An alternative to this preparation is to purchase the necks of sea clams, which are marketed under the name of "snouts." These necks are a perfect bait size and shape for flounder.

To dye clams you'll need a large pot, red food coloring, and containers such as plastic mayonnaise or Mason jars, plastic freeze containers or even plastic bags. They should be of sufficient size to hold a day's supply of bait. Avoid containers that hold more than a day's supply—the excess will only go to waste when you defrost the container.



If you are going to dye a large amount of clams, Ehler's red food dye is available in large 8-ounce bottles. Use an old pot, and be prepared to make a mess the better-half will never let you forget. Food dye doesn't dye only food—it dyes everything it touches.

The actual dying of the clams is a simple operation. The cleaned clams are placed in the pot and covered with fresh water. Add the food dye and stir. Allow the clams to soak in the colored water for two or three hours. Place portions in the containers, and freeze. That's it.

The final step in transforming the clam to a worm-like substitute takes place on the fishing trip. Remove a package of the dyed clams from the freezer the night before to allow time for thawing. The freezing process tenderizes the clam, giving the flesh a texture very similar to that of a bloodworm.

When you're ready to bait-up, cut the thick "tongue" of the clam into thin slices, then cut again through the middle so that you end up with bait-size pieces.

Flounder don't care about price tags on bait, and these economical dyed-clams have become known as "Social Security Worms," so mix up a batch and give them a try next time you go flounder fishing.

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(Continued from page 23.)

of foliage on stream temperature should not be lost on the conservation minded sportsman when developers seek to tamper with the headwaters of our few remaining quality trout streams.

The convection currents, which cause warmer water to rise and colder water to fall, create a unique phenomenon to occur in the larger, deeper lakes; the stratification of the water into three distinct temperature layers. The lake water remains relatively even at all depths during the winter months through early spring. Sometime in late spring (depending on the mildness of the weather) the water begins to "turn over" and the layers are formed.

The uppermost layer of 15 to 20 feet, depending on the season, is uniform in temperature and is the warmest of the three. The second layer, known as the *thermocline* is of the most interest to the fisherman, as it is where fish are most likely to congregate in the warm months. Temperature in the thermocline drops at the approximate rate of one degree Farenheit per foot of depth.

The exact depth at which the thermocline begins varies with the season, the layer sinking somewhat deeper in the hottest part of summer; therefore, a thermometer/depth-meter of the type described earlier is an invaluable aid in locating it. The upper portion of the thermocline usually provides the best fishing, but this too varies with the season, the lower half being the most productive in the heat of summer. The thermocline generally extends from the bottom of the upper layer to a depth of 15 to 20 feet below it.

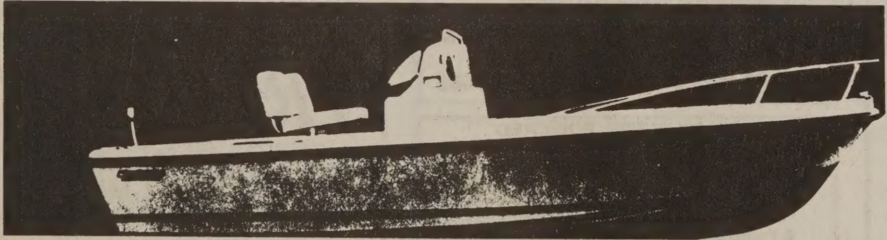
The third layer, extending from the lower limit of the thermocline to the very bottom of the lake, is the coldest of the three. Surprisingly, there is usually little or no fish life to be found at this lowest level; not through its being too cold, but rather because it lacks enough dissolved oxygen to sustain a fishery. Some lakes have very little vegetation or algae in their upper layers, allowing sunlight to penetrate the depths unimpeded. When this is the case, enough oxygen is present in the lower depths to allow fish to live in them.

Whether you fish a shallow pond, a swift flowing stream, or the thermocline of a deep lake, a knowledge of water temperature as it effects fish life can make the difference between an ample stringer and a skunking.

VACATION TIME

The Long Island Fisherman will not be published for the next two weeks while the staff goes on vacation. Issue #8 will be published on March 7th.

1974 BEACHCRAFT
BOAT SHOW SPECIAL



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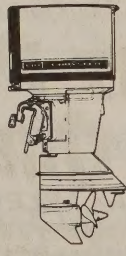

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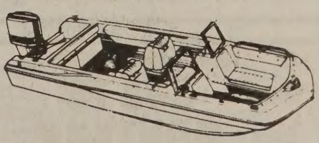

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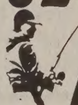

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South Shore Report

The winter fishing at Montauk continues unabated.

Capt. Rade of the Marlin III reports they are still catching a good amount of cod, pollack and blackfish. Fishing the nearby areas, such as Block Island, does not produce many of those huge 40 and 50 pound cod. Nevertheless, the smaller fish are more numerous. The other plus factor is that the blackfish are running from 2 or 3 pounds up to 7 or 8 pounds.

How's the fishing at Montauk? Ask Capt. Les Behan of the Peconic Queen. This past weekend, Les had a party come from Pennsylvania that wanted to try Montauk codfishing. They drove out from Pennsylvania, and with fuel right at the dock, they filled up with gasoline, and also went home with a trunkful of fish. On Friday, the Peconic Queen sailed with 9 fares. The spot that Capt. Behan picked was a steady producer for five hours. The cod were about 8 to 10 lbs., with a few 20 to 25 pounders taken. Plenty of blackfish are available along with the cod and pollack. The final count was over 250 fish. On Saturday, after the snow storm, they returned to the same spot and did nearly as well.

Now is the time to be thinking of setting up fishing charters for the coming warmer weather. Capt. Dick Vigilant of the Triton III said that in the coming weeks most of the charter boats will be able to give you the pick of whatever date you want. February and March, with their unsettled and cold weather, are probably the best times to call for reservations.

Capt. Whitey Bateman of the Four Queens and Capt. Vigilant are both looking forward to the coming season with confidence. Both captains have refurbished their boats both inside and out, and along with new engines, are all set to go.

If any of you are contemplating calling us here at the L.I.F. office concerning the dates certain fish are available, please remember that the L.I.F. closes for the last two weeks in February. Our next issue after this one will be #8, dated March 7, 1974.

A call to who I think is a very knowledgeable fisherman and tackle dealer brought forth some interesting projections. Chet of B & B Tackle in Center Moriches said there might be shortages of rods, lines and reels because of this crucial oil situation. He felt the first shortages would occur with the inexpensive lines of tackle. His feeling is that if material is short, the manufacturers will use what they have to produce the better rods and reels. From an ecological standpoint I agree with him that we should buy the better merchandise and make it last longer. Besides, the better rods and reels work much easier, and who wants to struggle with poor equipment when the fish are biting fast and furious?

Although flounders are sluggish at this time of year, some people are trying for them from the piers. Choose a bright day and try small bits of clam or mussel. A few dock fishermen have gotten 12 or 15 flatties, however, they are mostly small.

Capt. George Tweedy of the Capt. Scotty will be shutting down for a couple of weeks while his boat goes to Massachusetts for major improvements. The boat will have an additional ten feet added to its stern, which was the original plan. This, along with their three engines, should make this quite a new boat.

N.Y. Bight Report

The upcoming New York Bight season is being looked upon with extreme confidence by most of the boat captains. Another example of the effort and money being spent to give the people their money's worth is demonstrated by Capt. Richie Kessinger or Freeport. Richie is looking forward to his new boat this spring. It will be 80 feet long and extra wide, 22 feet, for more stable fishing. As an extra plus, Capt. Kessinger has installed turbocharged V-12 diesel engines which will push the boat along at 20 knots. It will be fast out and fast back for more fishing time on the water. Lots of luck,

(Continued on page 45.)

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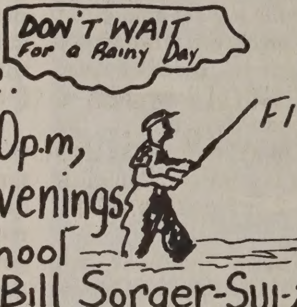
Beginning WED., MAR. 6, 1974 at 7:30 p.m,
the course will be 6 consecutive Wed. evenings
$10.00 for 6 weeks. Applicants need not be school district residents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GO FISHING

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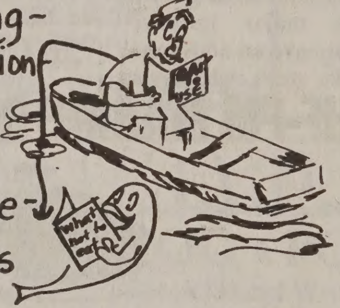
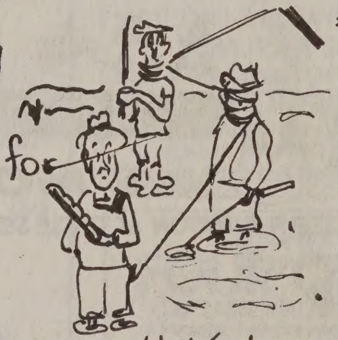
#1 Bottom Fishing - Basic introduction Selection of tackle - Species available - Baits & methods used

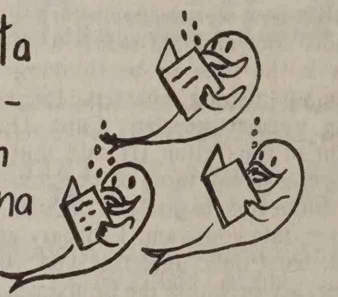


#4 Bluefish - Trolling - Chumming & wire-lining - methods, baits & locations

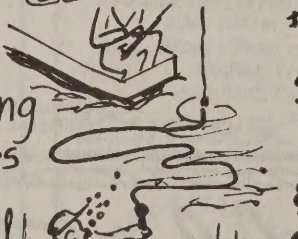
#2 Surf Fishing for Stripers & Blues --- fishing for Stripers with live bait



#5 Tuna, Bonita & Albacore - School fish to giant tuna Trolling & chumming



#3 Chumming for stripers - spinning for stripers & blues with artificial lures



#6 Shark fishing - Species available - Bait-Chum-Tackle & special equipment used - gaffing & tail roping

LECTURERS: DICK MERMON, FRANK DE GAETANO, BILL FISCHER, CAPT. BILL McFARLAND - AL NEAMAN - AL BENTSEN - CAPT. BILL BANTEL

VACATION TIME

The Long Island Fisherman will not be published for the next two weeks while the staff goes on vacation. Issue #8 will be published on March 7th.

North Shore

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Jennie Three

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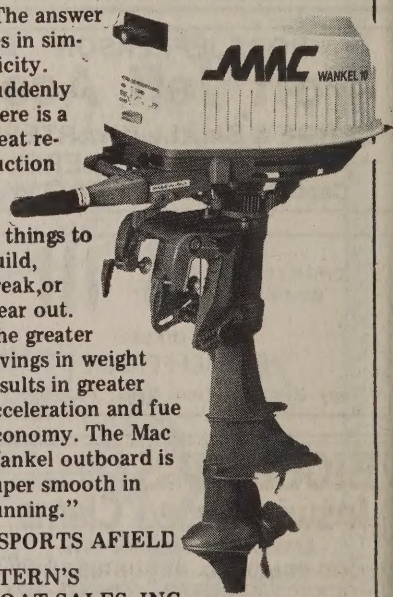

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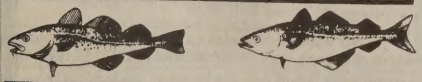

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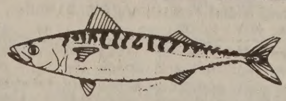

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SPRING FLOUNDER are only about 30 days away. Meet them & greet them with 3-HOOK KILLER RIG. Custom construction helps keep snelled hooks from tangling up. $.75 per rig—3 for $2.00—5 for $3.00—10 for $5.00. Write: P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, N.Y. 11566.

CAPTAINS WANTED. Huntington & Long Island Sound waters. For info. call (516) 486-6022 or (516) 427-1121.

2 NEW 1973 JEEP WAGONEERS, Non-Quad-Trac in stock. Automatic, full power. Perfect vehicle for beach use. New York's Largest Dealer. First in Sales, Service, Parts. Come see why. Long Island Jeep, Inc. Est. 1928. 1400 Hempstead Tpke., Elmont, N.Y. (516) 354-0267

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LOBSTER POTS; 36" oak, hand doweled constructed. from $6.95. Thrift Mart Marine, Selden (516)732-8608.

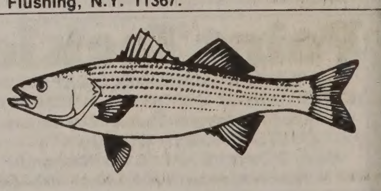
SALT WATER FISHING COURSE: Squadron Anglers Fishing Club is presenting its sixth annual fishing course beginning Wednesday, March 6, 1974, 7:30 p.m. for six consecutive Wednesday evenings. Being held at Mempham High School - room #128 - Camp Ave., North Bellmore. Fee $10.00. Curriculum will cover local salt waters, delving into bottom, bay, surf and ocean fishing - all species of bay and ocean fish will be covered along with proper equipment and its use. For additional information contact Bill Sorge (516) SU1-2519.

FREE! 1974 CATALOG OF TRI-FIN LURES. World's finest & largest selection of tube lures. For casting, trolling or jigging. E-SEA TACKLE CO. P.O. Box 80 Smithtown, N.y. 11787

TANDEM HOOK FLUKE RIG. Start catching those fluke that bite short and miss your hook! Hand tied tandem-hook rig puts a hook where strip-baits are normally bitten off by fluke. Send $3 for 3 rigs and directions on how to tie your own to avoid paying this ridiculous price to: Scott Simons, 152 Edmunton Drive, Apt. 16D, North Babylon, N.Y. 11703.

Spring flounder are only about 50 days away. Mee them and greet them with 3-HOOK KILLER RIG Custom construction helps keep snelled hooks from tangling up. .75 per rig — 3 for $2 — 5 for $3 — 10 fo $5. Write: P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpk., Merrick, N.Y 11566.

CRAB TRAP: Commercial Type — Build your ow before season starts. Send for plans using availabl materials. $1.00 + sales tax and self-addresse stamped envelope to Kensington Manor, 78-15 138t St., Flushing, N.Y. 11367.



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(Continued from page 39.)

Richie, on your new "superstar."

Capt. Clem of the Commodore was out this weekend and found flounder up in the back creeks on the outgoing tide. The flounders have been around all winter, with some minor catches being made. This mild winter tempted Capt. Clem to try for them. He was rewarded with fish of ¾ to one pound. Some fares had just a few fish while the more persistent anglers had a dozen or more. There seems to be a lot of flounder throughout the bay, and when the weather warms up, we should be in for some nice flounder fishing.

Whiting fishing seems to be the mainstay this past week for the Sheepshead Bay boats.

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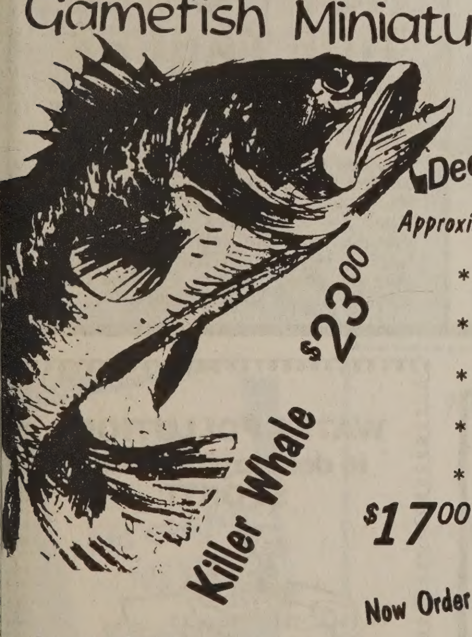

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The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration.

Thurs.	11:50	**6:06**		**6:30**
Fri.	12:15	**6:50**	12:45	**7:15**
Sat.	12:55	**7:35**	1:30	**8:00**
Sun.	1:45	**8:25**	2:15	**8:45**
Mon.	2:35	**9:05**	3:00	**9:30**
Tues.	3:15	**10:00**	3:45	**10:10**
Weds.	4:10	**10:30**	4:25	**10:50**
Thurs.	4:40	**11:10**	5:05	**11:30**

TIDE TABLES

	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM
THURSDAY	2:15	2:32	4:11	4:44	6:21	7:05	5:46	6:21
FRIDAY	3:10	3:33	5:12	5:48	7:32	8:12	6:46	7:22
SATURDAY	4:10	4:38	6:11	6:47	8:33	9:11	7:46	8:23
SUNDAY	5:10	5:41	7:03	7:35	9:29	10:03	8:44	9:15
MONDAY	6:05	6:31	7:47	8:17	10:19	10:48	9:37	10:03
TUESDAY	6:52	7:16	8:27	8:53	11:01	11:26	10:22	10:47
WEDNESDAY	7:35	7:55	9:05	9:30	11:36	11:58	11:03	11:25
THURSDAY	8:12	8:30	9:40	10:04		12:02	11:42	

on SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0	50
Shinnecock Bay	+1	25
East Quogue	+2	45
Shinnecock Canal	+1	18
Indian Reservation	+3	05
MORICHES INLET	−0	56
Smith's Point	+3	28
Harts Cove	+1	30
Potunck Point	+3	35
Mastic Beach	+3	28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0	38
(Inlet,Breakwater & Dem. Pt.)	−0	38
Coast Guard Station	−0	19
Fire Island Light	+0	47
GREAT SOUTH BAY		
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3	39
Heckscher State Park	+3	20
Bay Shore	+2	23
Babylon	+2	12
Amityville	+2	21
JONES INLET	−0	19
Loop Parkway Bridge	+0	25
Zachs Bay	+1	25
Seaford Harbor	+2	05
Freeport Creek	+0	34
EAST ROCKAWAY INLET	−0	06
Long Beach Bridge	+0	19
ROCKAWAY INLET	+0	00
Beach Channel (Bridge)	+0	38
JFK Airport	+0	26
STATEN ISLAND	+0	27
MANASQUAN	−0	12

on NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0	27
Connecticut River	+1	10
Little Gull Island (Race)	+0	12
Greenport	+1	04
Southold	+1	43
New Suffolk	+2	26
South Jamesport	+2	32
Shinnecock Canal	+2	33
Noyack Bay	+2	05
Sag Harbor	+0	59
Gardiners Bay	+0	21
Promised Land (Napeague)	−0	14
Fort Pond Bay	−0	29
Montauk Inlet	−0	25
Montauk Point	−1	13

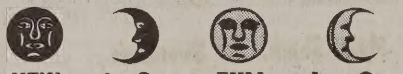
on BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0	08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0	08
Bayville Bridge	+0	13
Eatons Neck Point	+0	03
Northport Bay	+0	03
Norwalk Islands	+0	10
Smithtown Bay	−0	03
Cranes Neck Point	+0	05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0	03
New Haven Harbor	+0	08
Mount Sinai Harbor	−0	08
Herod Point	−0	07
Mattituck Inlet	+0	19
Horton Point	−0	20
Truman Beach	−0	42

on WILLETS POINT

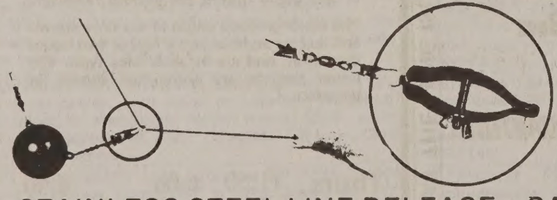
Little Neck Bay	−0	10
Execution Light	−0	06
Manhasset Bay	−0	01
Hempstead Harbor	−0	11
City Island	−0	03
Rye Beach	−0	28

PHASES OF THE MOON


NEW
1st Qtr.
FULL
Last Qtr.

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet —0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook". — 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.



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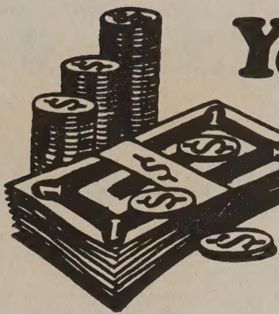

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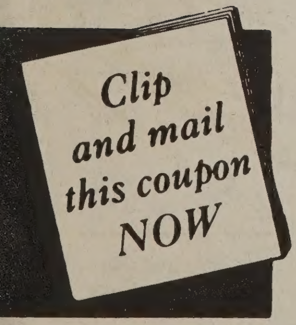
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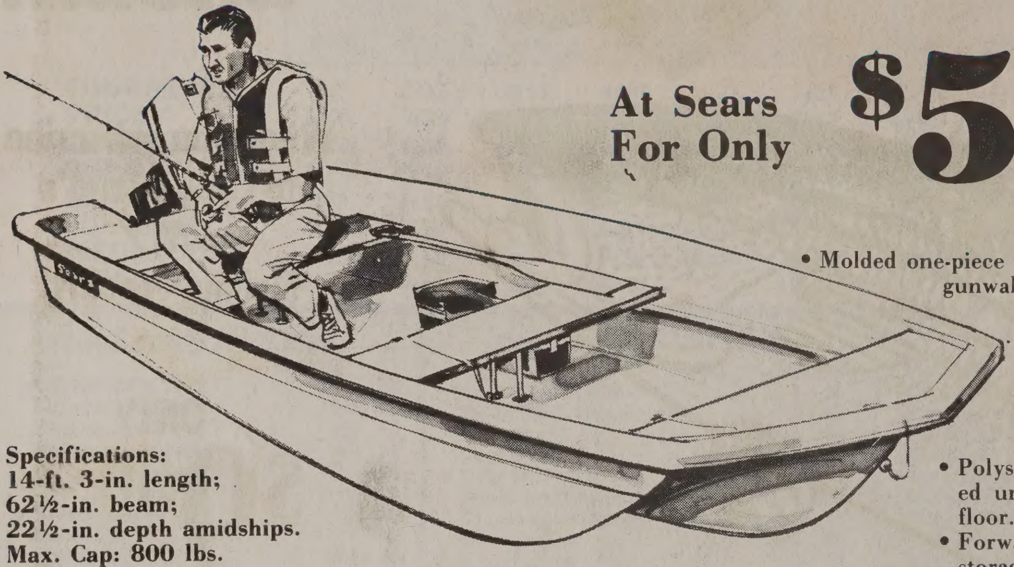
Sears Tri-Hull 14-Ft. Boat



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- Forward casting platform with storage compartment.

Specifications:
14-ft. 3-in. length;
62½-in. beam;
22½-in. depth amidships.
Max. Cap: 800 lbs.

Ted Williams® 12-Ft. Deluxe Gamefisher

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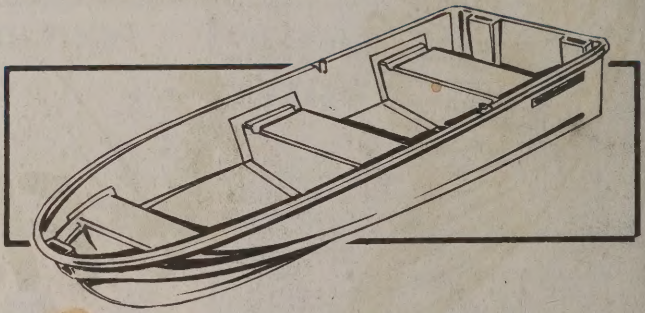
Fiber glass hull has no seams to leak or repair. Boat has built-in baitwell, oar locks, drain plugs.



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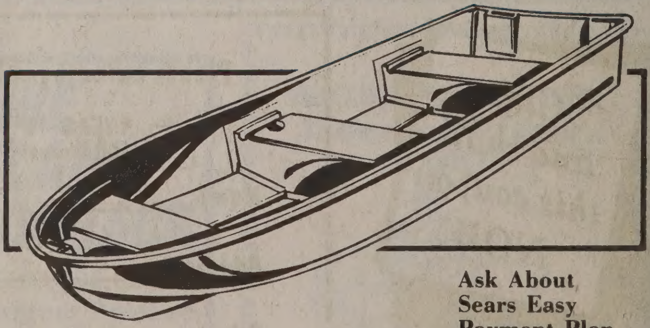

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